TheHighlander

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INSIDE: HOME IN THE HIGHLANDS AND THE WEEKEND FREE

Flipping over whitewater

Greg Foster flips his kayak while practising at Earl's hole at the Minden Whitewater Preserve. Foster competed in the 2025 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships in Plattling, Germany in June. See more coverage on page 18. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Landlords concerned about new rules

By Lisa Gervais

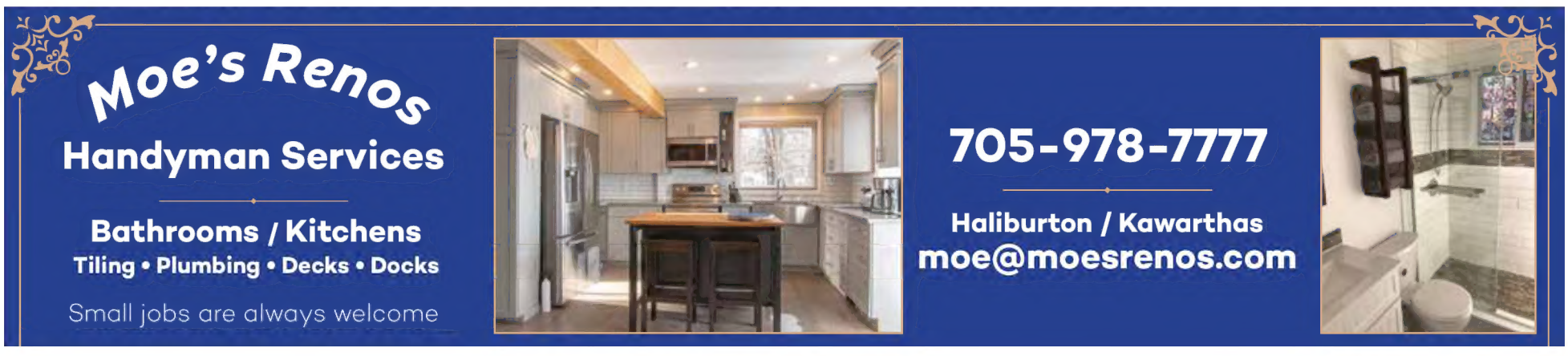
A Places for People (P4P) founder and board member says her "hair is lit up" trying to understand what the Ontario government's newly-enacted Bill 10 means for landlords when it comes to tenants and drugs.

The Bill received royal assent June 5. It basically says a landlord can't knowingly permit a property to be used to produce, or traffic, drugs. The landlord can offer a defence that they took reasonable measures to prevent the activity. Failure to do so, however, could result in a first conviction fine of between $10,000 and $250,000 and, or, two years' jail time. For corporations, such as P4P, it could mean a fine of $250,000 to $1 million on first conviction.

The province, in a press release, said, "new legislation is … being introduced to ensure landlords are held responsible for knowingly permitting their premises to be used for unauthorized drug activity. Any proposed requirements for landlords will only take effect once the Act and regulations come into force, at which time more guidance for landlords will be provided."

The Highlander reached out to MPP Laurie Scott for comment but had not heard back from her as of press time. However, a spokesperson for Minister for the Solicitor General, Michael Kerzner, said, "to be clear, Bill 10 ensures landlords who knowingly allow the illicit production and distribution of illegal drugs on their property will be

Continued **'Martin'** on page 2



Highlander news

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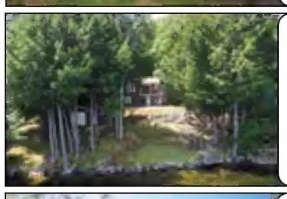

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SPECIALIZING IN WATERFRONT PROPERTIES

Martin: 'reasonable measures' not defined

Continued from page 1

held accountable." The spokesperson added, "we continue to work on regulations that will provide further guidance for landlords."

Martin has been trying to decipher the Bill, saying there's been no guidance yet for landlords such as P4P.

"The Bill says that landlords can be fined significant amounts of money … for having a tenant undertake illegal activity in their units and they would be protected if they used 'reasonable measures' to prevent the activity," she said. But Martin said 'reasonable measures' have not been defined.

Downloading responsibilities

"From an on-the-ground point of view, you're very limited in terms of how invasive you can be. You can't knock on the door and say 'hello, I'd like to come in and see if there is any illegal behaviour happening in this unit'. The tenants can say 'no.' Even police can't do that unless they have a warrant.

"How am I supposed to know whether what's happening in there is illegal activity?" Martin said she could go in and do a unit inspection, and perhaps see evidence of drug use, but would not know if it is illegal activity. For example, she said she does not know the difference between a methadone or heroin shot, or what an insulin injection needle looks like.

"Can I phone the police and say 'I was just inside my tenant's house and there was some dodgy stuff there. I think it might be illegal. Do they come? I'm not sure they would."

Overall, she said the new provincial rules are "expecting landlords to do the impossible, and it's a downloading of the responsibilities of law and order."

Martin added, "the bottom line is, we need housing. We need rental housing. We've got a huge housing problem. If we're going to solve that problem, everybody needs to lean in and do their part. This makes it incredibly more difficult.

"If you do rent, even under this circumstance, you are not going to take anybody that has any kind of risk. Anybody who needs a chance to turn the page and start a new life, you're going to say 'geez, I'd like to be helpful but I can't afford to. I can't take the risk'."

The Canadian Mental Health Association says it's not possible to know how the law will impact housing providers until it starts being enforced. They said it may deter landlords from renting to people who use drugs, and discourage them from working with supportive housing providers.

"Some landlords may try to evict current tenants if they think the law could expose them to penalties – placing an additional demand on an already over-burdened Landlord and Tenant Board and worsening the homelessness crisis."

The CMHA said there are also concerns the law places "a disproportionate administrative burden on non-profit and supportive housing providers, organizations with minimal funding that are already under-staffed.

Fay Martin of Places for People, pictured right at a housing forum in Minden Hills, is worried about the new Bill 10. *File.*

Tenant allowed to stay

Martin points to a Jan. 21 police bust at P4P's George Street, Haliburton property.

Police executed a warrant and said they found multiple firearms, ammunition, other weapons and suspected drugs. A man was eventually charged with a number of offences, including possession of a Schedule 1 substance.

At the time, Martin said it seemed the accused had been living in an existing tenant's apartment. She said the organization was aware of problematic, possibly illegal, activity at the site and notified police.

However, Martin said the finding of drugs likely only occurred as police went in due to suspected weapons.

P4P tried to evict the tenant but were unsuccessful. Their case was heard June 25, but the Landlord and Tenant Board ruled on July 10, the "landlord has proven on a balance of probabilities the grounds for termination of the tenancy and the claim for compensation in the application. However, I find it would not be unfair to grant relief from eviction provided that the tenant meets the conditions set out in the order."

The tenant argued she had no knowledge of weapons or drugs and the other party would not be coming back. Conditions include that he not return and she not allow unlawful behaviour.

Martin isn't sure how P4P can keep tabs on whether the man returns. She added that in facing the new Bill 10, "the thing that makes my hair light up is the contradiction between 'we can't even evict', but we're responsible for not evicting. That just kills me."

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Highlander news

Haliburton Highlands OPP maintains a strong presence on County lakes through the summer. *Submitted.*

Five hurt on the water

By Mike Baker

After responding to a pair of non-fatal boating incidents on two County lakes last weekend, Haliburton Highlands OPP is preaching the importance of implementing good habits to stay safe on the open water.

Police confirmed a 20-year-old from Bobcaygeon was charged with impaired operation following a boating collision on Kennisis Lake July 27. Three individuals sustained non-life-threatening injuries after the boat they were travelling in struck an island during the early hours of the morning.

Two days earlier, on July 25, emergency services attended an incident at Horseshoe Lake Road and Bethel Road in Minden following reports that two people were ejected from a watercraft at the Minden Whitewater Preserve, resulting in injuries.

One person was retrieved from the water with a suspected back injury, with the second sustaining a suspected leg injury.

While all involved avoided ultimate disaster, Haliburton Highlands OPP Cst. Hillary Newman said bad boating behaviour can cost lives.

The Highlands detachment has officers trained to handle marine investigations, with officers maintaining a strong presence on County lakes through summer. Newman said there are proactive waterway patrols scheduled throughout summer.

"We have so many bodies of water up here, big and small, so it's important for people to know we're out there. We don't want to have to respond to any sort of emergency situation in the water, we want to try to resolve those before they happen," she said, noting the detachment has its own boating equipment and is routinely assisted by nearby departments.

While she couldn't provide specific numbers, Newman said impaired boating has been an issue this year.

"We see impaired operation across the board, [for boating] it's definitely similar to driving," she said. "It's important to note that, for the majority of boats there's no open alcohol containers allowed. You're only allowed to drink on the larger vessels, which we don't typically see on our smaller lakes.

"It's equally important to be mindful of alcohol consumption even before going out on the water. The consequences for impaired boating are the same as for impaired driving – you lose your licence. Even if you're charged with operating a vessel while impaired, you won't be able to operate a motor vehicle," Newman said.

Since 2020 there have been 81 boating fatalities across Ontario. Haliburton Highlands is among the top five detachments for boat-related deaths since 2015, with 10.

The Haliburton detachment puts a strong focus on educating the public about boating safety, Newman said, with lifejackets a top priority.

"It's not enough just having them on the boat. People need to wear one anytime they're on the water, and make sure they're in good working order," she said. "You'd hate to need it in an emergency and then find out it doesn't fit or it's fallen off the boat."

She said boat owners should also carry a whistle and bucket – to attract attention and divert water in emergency situations.

Newman said it's also important to keep an eye on small children and inexperienced swimmers around the water.

"It doesn't take long, and it doesn't take deep water for tragedy to strike… focus on teaching your kids how to swim. It's important for kids to be comfortable with water and know their limits. People come into the lakes up here after only swimming in a pool – just knowing about the currents and how quickly things can change is important," Newman said. "It's a different world swimming in open water."

She called on the public to help police keep lakes safe, encouraging anyone witnessing dangerous or erratic behaviour on the water to contact OPP. The non-emergency line is available 24/7 at 1-800-310-1122.

"We have a ton of lakes in our area, so we really do rely on input from the public to direct our efforts," she said.

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Highlander news

ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS NEWS

Stairlift to heaven

Algonquin Highlands is applying for a $60,000 accessibility grant to install a stairlift at the Stanhope Firefighters' Community Hall.

Chris Card, the township's parks, recreation and trails manager, told council during a July 17 meeting that money is available through Ontario's 'enhancing access to spaces for everyone' (EASE) grant. He noted the Stanhope hall does not currently have a "current, up to code accessible option" for the public, with stairs separating the entrance and primary gathering space.

Another option was to apply for money to replace the lift at the Dorset Recreation Centre, which recently broke down. Card said replacement will cost around $55,000.

While the province says successful grant applicants will be notified by the end of 2025, Card said it could come later, possibly in spring 2026. That means the building could be without a functioning elevator for several months, Card said.

"I just can't see keeping the lift in Dorset closed for six months – there would be no access to downstairs, to the library [for people with accessibility issues]," coun. Julia Shortreed said, especially since there's no guarantee of getting the money.

Council opted to fund the replacement immediately via municipal reserves. Card said the Oxtongue Lake Community Centre wasn't considered for a lift project as it would "cost five times as much" as the funding available through the EASE grant.

Dorset gazebo

The township is hoping to install a new outdoor gathering space at the Dorset Heritage Museum in 2026.

Council approved a proposed site plan for a 20ft by 12ft structure to be located at the front of the property, by County Road 39. Algonquin Highlands' project manager, Brian Mulholland, said the structure, requested by the museum committee, will be used for hosting events and to provide an area for social networking and community engagement.

He has connected with Fleming College to see if the project could be completed by students enrolled in the timber frame program at the Haliburton School of Art + Design. While the school isn't taking on new projects this year, Mulholland said the gazebo is "top of the list for 2026… contingent on the program still being in place."

Local discounts

Council debated the merits of implementing ratepayer discounts for facility rentals, campsite bookings, visitor passes to the Dorset Tower, and all township-led recreation programs and events, directing staff to develop a policy for rollout in 2026.

Card said he's found 16 other municipalities in Ontario that either apply discounts to municipal programming and rentals, or additional surcharges to non-ratepayers. The forgiveness in other areas ranges from five to 25 per cent.

Dysart et al and Minden Hills recently approved a 25 per cent surcharge to out-of-towners for ice rentals – Card suggested the best route would be applying a discount as it would be easier on staff. He noted there are approximately 24,000 visitors to the Dorset Tower and area trails annually, with less than one per cent of those being local.

The biggest benefit would be to users of the Dorset Recreation Centre, with Card estimating 30 per cent of users are ratepayers. He suggested mailing a discount code that people can utilize when needed.

Algonquin Highlands council has supported a plan to install a gazebo on the grounds of the Dorset Heritage Museum. *File.*

Council asked staff to bring back recommendations for discount percentages for locals and possible rate hikes for visitors before the end of the year, with a view to implementing them during the regular fees and services review in 2026. *(Algonquin Highlands briefs compiled by Mike Baker).*

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- July 31- Regular Council Meeting
- August 14 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

CIVIC HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The following Township of Minden Hills offices will be closed on Monday, August 5, 2025, to celebrate the Civic Holiday.

- Municipal Administration Office (7 Milne St.)
- Fire Hall Administration Office (12418 Hwy. 35)
- Minden Hills Cultural Centre (176 Bobcaygeon Rd.)
- SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena (55 Parkside St.)

All waste disposal sites will be open on and will operate on Sunday hours. Our offices and facilities will resume regular hours on Tuesday, August 5, 2025.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• *Of Light and Life*, a new exhibit by world renowned artist Michael Dumas, is on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until September 13. Copies of Michael's recently published book *Algonquin Legacy - The Art of Michael Dumas* will also be available for sale in the Gallery.

• The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village and Nature's Place are Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm! Daily drop-in programs are offered at 11 am. Coming up this week: Thursday – weave with a cardboard loom, Friday – Toddler Discovery Zone at 11 am and ice-cream making at 12 pm, Saturday – crayon wax art.

• Join us under the stars on Thursday, July 31 at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre for our first outdoor movie night of the summer! We will be presenting The Adventures of Greyfriars Bobby (2005). Don't forget your lawn chair, blanket, and snacks! If it rains, the event will still take place indoors in the Welch Room. Admission is by donation. No pre-registration is required.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

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Flattened boxes = more room in the bin. Clean, empty cardboard = better recycling.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently recruiting for the following vacancies:

- Student Arena Attendants
- Student Recreation Attendants
- Cultural Centre Relief Staff
- Seasonal Roads Labourer
- Casual Community Services Operator

Visit www.mindenhills.ca/careers for more information and how to apply.

BID OPPORTUNITIES

The Township of Minden Hills currently has the following tenders available:

- ENV 25-002 Construction of Scotch Line Transfer Station (submission deadline August 15, 2025).
- ADMIN 25-003 Development Approval Process (submission deadline August 22, 2025).

See Bid Opportunities on our website for more information. Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

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Dysart shoots down glamping proposal

By Mike Baker

Dysart et al council has closed the door on a proposal seeking to temporarily rezone land in Haliburton village, close to Hal High, that would have permitted a three-year glamping operation.

Elected officials voted unanimously to turn down an application from the owners of 77 Wallings Rd. to establish a six-pod glamping service on the 2.2-acre property. During a July 22 public meeting, Kris Orsan, Dysart's manager of planning, said the applicant was seeking relief of the township's temporary-use bylaw under Section 39 of the Planning Act to permit the structures, which would be used as short-term accommodation for vacationers.

The pods are self-contained pre-fab structures designed to sleep two people, with a maximum of 12 people allowed on-site. They would be located at the front of the property, away from the shore of Head Lake.

Savas Varadas, principal planner at Huntsville-based consulting firm Plan Muskoka, which represents the owners, told council he felt the proposal was "fairly low impact" and not unaligned with neighbouring land-uses, which are predominantly residential.

"The glamping pods are fairly non-destructive to construct. They'll be placed on a platform without the need for a foundation, which makes them easily removed at the end of the three-year period," Varadas said, noting an existing building would serve as a washroom facility. There is enough parking on site to allow for more than one vehicle per pod.

Varadas added the owner is willing to install fencing and plant trees around property lines, to address public concern, and establish a vegetative buffer around the shoreline.

Pete Mitchell doesn't want a front row seat to the glamping site. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Coun. Nancy Wood-Roberts was the first to shoot down the proposal.

"This does not meet any of the guidelines [within] Section 39 of the Planning Act – it doesn't serve a temporary need or broader public interest, it appears to only serve a financial interest of the property owner," Wood-Roberts said.

She noted the property is zoned, partially, to support residential development, which the community is in desperate need of.

"This is not meeting that guideline. It doesn't meet any long-term needs of the community. The official plan specifically identifies this type of recreation and commercial use be outside the settlement area. I do find it to be an incompatible use," Wood-Roberts added.

Neighbours' concerns

Doug and Mardi Tindal, who own a condo next door at 75 Wallings Rd., opposed the application. While the pair "lean more to YIMBY (yes in my backyard) than NIMBY (not)" they were concerned about possible noise, impacts to groundwater supply and traffic, and potential future-uses.

The couple felt the municipality would have a hard time reacting to noise complaints after regular work hours, when the site would be most frequently used. They also questioned the use of a May 2017 traffic count study, submitted by the applicant and completed two years prior to the construction of their condo building. The report indicated the area could handle increased traffic flow.

"No one who has tried to turn left out of Wallings Road [during summer] would find a May-based study credible… no matter what the year," the Tindals wrote.

The County, which holds approval authority as the owner of County Road 21, which Wallings Road flows from, had no objections to the proposal.

Pete Mitchell, a director at Haliburton Condominium Corporation, felt the "intrusion and commotion" the glamping operation would bring "simply doesn't work for us, or the neighbourhood at large."

Given the pods would be fitted with electric heaters for use through three seasons, Mitchell feared how that additional pressure would impact the area's weak hydro service.

"We've only been provided a phase-one service… the condo building is already challenged to provide additional services to its owners due to power limitations," Mitchell said.

Varadas asked that the issue be deferred to give his client time to respond to questions and concerns, but council was having none of it. Coun. Pat Casey echoed Wood-Roberts' concerns, saying the glamping feature wouldn't be a good fit in a high-density residential area. Coun. Barry Boice said he didn't see any point deferring, believing council was firm in its position.

Deputy mayor Walt McKechnie was worried how the township would police noise and occupancy complaints; mayor Murray Fearrey commented the operation "should be in the bush or rural area, where it belongs,"; coun. Tammy Donaldson said, "it's a great idea, it's just on the wrong property,"; while coun. Carm Sawyer also expressed opposition.

"I love camping too, but camping is in the woods not on the main street of town," Sawyer said.

Food banks launch shared website

The food banks serving Haliburton County have launched a new shared website: www.FoodBanksHaliburtonCounty.ca – "in a collaborative effort to make it easier for residents to find, and give, food support, and information in one convenient place."

The website is the result of a partnership between Minden Community Food Centre, Central Food Network, and Haliburton 4Cs. They came together to create a user-friendly hub for anyone seeking details on local food banks.

Visitors can now access details about locations, service areas, and how to get involved or donate - all in one place.

Tina Jackson, of Central Food Network, said, "by working together, our organizations hope to reduce confusion and improve the visibility of our services."

Louise Ewing, chair of the board for 4Cs, added, "people shouldn't have to struggle to figure out where to go when they're already struggling to put food on the table."

And, Jean Munroe from Minden Community Food Centre, said the website removes barriers and makes it easier for individuals and families to get the help they need more quickly and with dignity.

The three still encourage people to visit the location that is most accessible to them.

All three food banks provide support to community members who need one-time, emergency and long-term food support.

The shared website outlines three key ways to get involved: donating money online, donating food, or joining as a volunteer.

According to the HKPR District Health Unit's '2024 cost of eating well report.' close to 13 per cent of households in Haliburton County live on a low income.

Moving forward, the three said they would continue to use the website as part of their shared communications to outline where the public can find support from each of the organizations and how they can get involved with upcoming fundraisers.

They credited the Haliburton County Development Corporation, which provided a local initiatives' program grant. *(Lisa Gervais)*

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Haliburton Highlands CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Chris Ewles, general manager of Millington's Big Hawk Lake Marina, is concerned about "dangerous" driving habits near the business. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

AH, marina talk road safety

By Mike Baker

Algonquin Highlands council has committed to working with Millington's Big Hawk Lake Marina to address safety concerns along the busiest stretch of Big Hawk Lake Road.

The marina's general manager, Chris Ewles, told council during a July 17 meeting that he's worked there for 18 months and has witnessed many near-misses involving vehicles and pedestrians brought on by speeding and dangerous driving.

"The marina is often seriously congested with canoeists, cottagers, staff and visitors… busloads of children from summer camps are frequent… making navigating the area a challenge," he said, noting traffic from the nearby public beach and boat launch, cottage roads and parking areas exacerbate problems.

Ewles said the situation is becoming so dire he's worried about staff safety.

"As employers, we have a duty and responsibility to provide a safe work environment… we cannot accomplish this without the township's support," Ewles noted.

He posed six solutions to council – reduce the posted speed limit from 50 km/h; establish a community safety zone; install speed bumps; purchase speed enforcement cameras to put in the area; install a stop sign; or a pedestrian crossing.

"I do not feel reducing the speed alone will stop the problem… also consider at least one of the other suggestions as we cannot rely on physical OPP enforcement in this isolated area," Ewles said.

Mayor Liz Danielsen said the road is very congested during the summer, admitting the township has some responsibility to rectify the issue. As does the marina, which is owned by Algonquin Highlands coun. Sabrina Richards, who recused herself from the discussion.

"I'm looking at this as something we jointly need to look at… certainly, we can't solve all the problems of all the businesses in Algonquin Highlands [alone]," the mayor said. "There's an aspect of buyers' beware. When you buy a marina that is on the road, there's bound to be problems."

Ewles said the marina is "absolutely eager" to help the township solve the issue.

CAO Angie Bird suggested installing one of the township's digital speed signs on the road immediately and direct public works staff to investigate other solutions.

Danielsen warned that, although a serious matter, the issue won't be resolved quickly. She said staff should take their time to properly consider all options and the costs involved. Bird said a report could be prepared for a meeting in August or September.

"Speed bumps, I'd like to hear from public works about [their effectiveness], then from bylaw on crosswalks, the implications of putting in a stop sign," Danielsen said. "If there are any other ways of reducing the congestion, I'd look to any and all suggestions on how to go about that."

Land dispute

Danielsen said she's also waiting on results of a land survey, which will clearly outline where the marina's property ends and the township's begins. The mayor said this had been in dispute for some time, suggesting it would be in the owner's best interest to pay for and complete the work

"It doesn't fix the challenge with speeding and danger… but I have heard the road is on our property, and we don't know that. A survey will help us guide what we need to do to resolve this problem," Danielsen said. "There's definitely a willingness here for us to do something… but without a clear survey showing clear ownership, it really is a challenge for all of us."

In a follow-up interview, Ewles told *The Highlander* he's not sure what such a survey would solve – saying he hasn't yet initiated one.

"Where we are parking and working on boats is 100 per cent our property, not township. It's just a matter of whether the road in its entirety is also [our property]. The two situations don't have anything to do with each other. For one, if we got a new survey, if we established the fact that [the road] is on our land, that doesn't negate the township's rights to have the road [there], it doesn't negate their right to establish whether we put speed bumps down. There's no advantage to us doing [a survey]."

He suggested if the township wants clarification, then it should pay for the work.

"Citizens and businesses, generally, aren't expected to foot the bill for these things. If the [township] wants a survey, then it is well within its rights to order one," Ewles said.

...JOIN THEM AT thehighlander.ca

A complaint was made over loud music played at the Haliburton landfill. *File.*

Resident says she got no satisfaction over noise at dump

By Lisa Gervais

Susan Lee is no fan of loud music at Dysart et al's Industrial Park landfill.

On July 23, she visited the facility, recording a video of music blaring at 8 a.m.

She then drove into town, and walked into the Dysart et al office to complain.

She said supervisor of municipal law enforcement, Hailey Cole, initially said she would come to investigate. However, when told it was at the landfill, she claimed bylaw would not respond to her complaint about township staff.

However, Lee said, "there's a noise bylaw and this was much louder than the noise bylaw. She could have gone." However, she said she was told all bylaw could do was talk to landfill management.

"Anybody that works anywhere, you can't have loud music outside. You can't disturb your neighbours. They must have some kind of policy within their department or on their books …" Lee said.

Cole told *The Highlander* she advised Lee she could file a complaint.

"Initially, it was described as loud music in town. I incorrectly assumed that meant a neighbour was blasting music which is a violation between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. and could be a violation during the day depending on volume."

She said although the music was "quite loud," at the landfill, the bylaw section she would use for loud music during the day is 3.1, that "no person shall emit or cause or permit the emission of unreasonable noise that is clearly audible at a point of reception."

But Cole said the key is "clearly audible at a point of reception", for example, a neighbouring property.

"It's extremely rare for a location to be considered point of reception when it's on the same property as the source, the only times I've seen this happen, it involved multi-tenant buildings," Cole said.

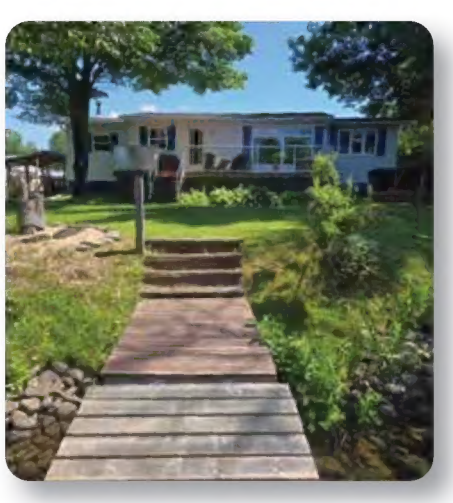
She said it boiled down to a complaint about conduct of staff; not a bylaw violation.

"Similar to how one would complain about staff at a business, the course of action here would be to speak with the manager of the attendants. I advised I would notify the environmental manager, which I did, she has since spoken to her staff and they have indicated they'll lower the volume," Cole said.

But Lee said she isn't satisfied.

"The neighbours are people coming to dump their garbage. This isn't the first time. This has been going on for a while. I've been waiting until the weather was okay so I could get a recording.

"Dysart et al should be setting an example for everybody else … I don't like listening to that music. How can they enforce the bylaws when they're not enforcing them on their own guys?"



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For more information about their services or to schedule a consultation, you can visit the website: thomascontracting.ca or contact the office directly: 705-489-2711

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Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
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To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Slow down, get it right

By Lisa Gervais

The Ford government's latest Bill – this one number 10 – has area landlords worried.

The 'Protect Ontario Through Safer Streets and Stronger Communities Act', 2015, has received royal assent. The Bill has amended a bunch of acts, including the Bail Act, the Children's Law Reform Act, Christopher's Law (Sex Offenders Registry), Community Safety and Policing Act, Courts of Justice Act, Family Law Act, Highway Traffic Act, and, finally, Measures Respecting Premises with Illegal Drug Activity Act, 2025 – or schedule eight.

We had a look at the schedule after a representative of Places for People (P4P) reached out with concerns about what it could mean for a housing provider such as them.

This is a government that quickly pushes change through, counting on the speed derailing objectors. The wording is hard to understand, but intentionally using words such as "protect" and "safer" and "stronger" to ram them through. After all, who doesn't want protection, safety and strength?

However, with speed and emotive words, the new laws often lack detail.

This one is a perfect example.

In a nutshell, they are saying landlords cannot knowingly permit production or trafficking of a controlled substance, or precursor (whatever that means?), or of cannabis. The landlords can offer a defence that they took reasonable measures to prevent an activity. If the defence fails, they can face heavy fines – an amount that could sink a charity such as P4P, as well as jail time.

But what are reasonable measures?

As a landlord we spoke to said, they cannot simply knock on a tenant's door and ask to look around. Sure, they can schedule an inspection, but they are not drug experts. A person could be taking insulin injections for diabetes. They might be on methadone. How would the landlord know the difference?

If they called OPP to report they saw something 'dodgy', would the police come?

If the rules are to change, then surely the Landlord and Tenant Board needs a complete overhaul as well.

Let's look at that January drug bust at a P4P property on George Street, for example.

We're told it was not the tenant, but a friend of the tenant, who was busted for weapons and drugs.

P4P tried to get the tenant evicted. The tenant argued she didn't know her friend had guns and drugs.

P4P took the case to the board in June and got a ruling July 10. The board said the landlord had proven on a balance of probabilities the grounds for termination of the tenancy and a claim for compensation.

However, inexplicably, it went on to say it would not be unfair to grant relief from eviction, provided the tenant met conditions set out in an order: not allowing their friend back and ensuring no illegal activity.

Surely, Bill 10 would suggest one 'reasonable measure' would be to evict a tenant who housed someone involved in drugs. Not so, according to the board. Now, P4P isn't sure how to keep tabs on whether the man returns.

This example points out a glaring contradiction. A landlord is being told they cannot evict, and yet, can be held responsible for not evicting.

It's time the Ford government slows things down. With haste and incendiary verbiage come mistakes and, in this case, stress for landlords. The province says we have a housing shortage but rules such as this are surely not helping.

NATURE'S CALLING

July fishing traditions

By Toni Cooper

As everyone knows by now, I have a deep passion for the great outdoors: fishing, hunting, and all the adventures that come with it.

With July winding down, the fishing season is undeniably in full swing, and this year, I've found myself venturing out on the water more the ever. The reasons are as varied as the lakes I've explored: perhaps it's the relentless heat that beckons me to dip my toes in the cool waters or maybe it's a way to feel close to my dad who passed, who introduced me to these cherished experiences. Whatever the reason, this year has been nothing short of extraordinary.

Spending time in nature has a way of rejuvenating the spirit, and for me, the water holds a special significance. Whether it's the joy of reeling in a big bass or simply basking in the sunshine with family and friends, every trip to the lake reminds me of the beauty of life's simple pleasures.

My time on the water has truly been a journey. I've tested my skills at several new lakes, each offering a unique array of challenges and rewards. The thrill of casting a line into unexplored territory always comes with a hint of anticipation, and this year has been no exception. The adventures have been countless, filled with great company, laughter, and a few unforgettable catches.

One of the highlights was entering a bass tournament with my partner, Traviss. Sure, I may not have landed a single fish that day, but the experience was priceless. Tournaments create an exhilarating atmosphere, filled with enthusiastic anglers and the fierce spirit of competition. Its not just about the fish you catch; it's about the community of fellow outdoorsmen and women, the friendly banter, and the shared passion for fishing that makes it all worthwhile. I walked away with not just a greater appreciation for the sport but also a heartwarming memory of an unforgettable day by the water.

Fishing, particularly for bass, is always a joy. Did you know that bass can be quite a fascinating species? They belong to the sunfish family and are known for their aggressive behaviour, which makes them quite the catch for anglers. One fun fact about bass is that they have excellent eyesight, allowing them to detect movement from several yards away. This is why a careful approach and stealthy casting can improve your odds of landing one. Their diet comprises various smaller fish, and insects, which means that fishing for bass can vary depending on the time of year and water conditions

As we wrap the last week of July, I plan to make the most of this season. Whether it's revisiting a favourite spot, or discovering new ones. I'm excited to see what adventures await. Here's to more fishing. Laughter, and beautiful days spent outdoors - after all, that's what its all about.

Remember get outdoors and experience what nature has to offer us.

SEND IN YOUR PHOTO OF THE WEEK
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Send them to editor@thehighlander.ca

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Dysart council : choose right

Dear editor,

Re. 'Dysart okays shore builds.' *The Highlander*, July 24.

Ask almost anyone in Haliburton why they live here and you'll hear the lakes, the woods, the outdoors.

You could pick up Toronto and put it down somewhere else and it would still be roughly the same city. Haliburton is not like that. Haliburton is the land and the life that stirs there. We pay fortunes to watch the sun set over loon-spotted water; disappear the water and we might as well buy in the suburbs.

Yet, how do we treat it? Those same lakes we claim to cherish suffer because of us. Salt off the roads, pesticides off the grass, garbage out of the ditch - it's all poison to the water.

Now, Dysart council wants to let people build gazebos right on the shore and sheds and saunas just a few metres off it.

Owning land - especially in as extraordinary a place as Haliburton - brings responsibilities to all else that live on the land. We best realize that before we've lost the chance. Council, we can be an anonymous town on tamed and silent earth or we can be Haliburton. Choose right.

Duncan Farthing-Nichol
Old Donald Road

Is Dysart so different?

Dear editor,

Let me get this straight.

Dysart et al is part of Haliburton County council, one of four municipalities. Some members of Dysart council sit on the County council. Property taxes support both municipalities and County budgets.

In the past couple of years, the County spent $41,605, plus applicable taxes, on consultants' fees and many hours of staff and council hours, public forums and surveys to determine what sort of new shoreline protection bylaw should be drafted and be acceptable to the public. The final draft was passed by County council into law, with the aim of protecting lake health in all County lakes.

Subsequent to passing the County shoreline protection bylaw, Dysart et al council decided not to sign onto a bylaw they participated at every stage in drafting.

Now, Dysart et al is using public surveys etc. again to determine what would be acceptable to the ratepayers of Dysart et al. Is Dysart et al so different? Are our lakes not subject to the same environmental stresses as those of the rest of the County?

Do I hear a lot of bureaucratic wheels spinning, or is Dysart et al council looking for the easy way out of "protecting" our lakes?

Armin Weber
Eagle Lake

Time to ban fireworks

Dear editor,

Thank you, Lisa Gervais, for both congratulating our local politicians for coming together on a daytime fire ban and then chastising them for their failure to do the same for fireworks.

The daytime fire ban has made a difference but their failure on a clear fireworks bylaw only seems to have made the matter worse.

Susan Hay from Environment Haliburton! was 100 per cent correct in her presentation to council in 2023 asking for a fireworks ban. Algonquin Highlands got close last year, but despite slightly more than 60 per cent of their constituents clearly supporting a ban, based on their poll, they still allow fireworks around Canada Day.

This year, on the lake I live on just north of Minden, we suffered through four nights of fireworks on Canada Day weekend. It started on the Saturday night and went until Tuesday. One of the nights they were still happening at 2 a.m. as our poor terrified pooches paced, panted and tried to hide. I can only imagine the effect on wild animals. Since then, we have had fireworks on the lake every weekend and even once during the week.

I can hear the politicians lining up their excuses. How do we enforce a no fireworks bylaw and what about the economic effect? I believe most people obey bylaws, especially if they are clear. We have no dedicated fireworks store in the County. Some of the smaller stores might lose a tiny bit of revenue, but the Home Hardwares or Canadian Tire aren't going to close up shop if they can't sell fireworks. As far as tourism, do people really come to this area to experience fireworks?

It's time for the local politicians to step up and do what's right.

Paul Hewitt
Minden

Responsible journalism

Dear editor,

I enjoyed your editorial on Lounge for two reasons. One, because I was wondering what happened to Lounge. I had read some online posts about the owners being harassed due to their sexual orientation. I thought that was weird. Minden celebrates Pride. That's not the vibe I get living here.

The two times I went to Lounge, I really wanted to like it because they make my favourite coffee perfectly and the interior was gorgeous. But the service was terrible. Both times. The second time I took my father for breakfast. His orange juice cost $8. Maybe we're frugal but we didn't end up eating there. One, because it was crazy expensive and two, the service took so long that we finally just left. We were seated in a fairly empty restaurant for at least 15 minutes before anyone acknowledged us.

The second reason I enjoyed the editorial was because, when I thought about it, I do trust *The Highlander*. I Google everything I read because there's so much misinformation going around that one never knows for sure. But I realized that I don't do that with *The Highlander* because I trust the job you all do and your editorial just gave me that extra relief.

Krista Baker
Minden Hills

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Yvonne Friend sent this photo of a chippy with a peanut.

Bylaw not addressing issues

Dear editor,

Regarding Lisa Gervais's column about fireworks (*The Highlander*, July 24), she notes that fire departments do not respond to related complaints; bylaw enforcement does.

It is worth noting that, in Highlands East, bylaw enforcement works Monday to Friday and the municipal website notes that calls received after 4:30 p.m. will be addressed the following day. The municipality directs after-hours complaints to the OPP.

You may recall a four-day, three-night music festival that occurred in August 2023 in Gooderham, during which techno music was blasted across a lake with a club-quality sound system, audible many kilometres away.

Many, many complaints were directed to bylaw enforcement and the OPP. The OPP advised me that they do not deal with bylaw enforcement but will accompany bylaw officers if there is a personal safety issue. On that occasion, likely due to the volume of complaints, they did a walk-through in the middle of the third night, but it is not their responsibility.

I can think of no more egregious example of a noise bylaw infraction than this festival. Now, nearly two years later, per the bylaw report appended to minutes of the council meeting, the investigation is 'ongoing.'

Despite my bylaw complaint, delegation presented at the October 2023 council meeting and emails to the mayor and deputy mayor, not one person in the municipality has responded. Ever.

The municipality has no on-call system for response to any after-hours issue, and has declined to implement one. Fireworks and noise bylaw infractions occur when bylaw officers are not available. So, please do not expect any response - ever - from bylaw enforcement to these issues.

Ann Speers
Gooderham

Thanks to HHHS

Dear editor,

I am writing this letter to express my deepest appreciation for the exceptional care my husband received in a recent emergency situation at our Gooderham home.

From the emergency dispatch centre, paramedics (Chris and Spencer) and volunteer fire department.

Your promptness, knowledge, compassion was certainly demonstrated. They were incredibly competent in what we deemed to be a life altering/emergency situation. The situation being more apparent upon arrival and assessment at Haliburton Emergency, and their interim actions certainly altered the results of what could have been a more dire outcome.

You are true heroes. We greatly appreciate your service and tireless commitment to our community.

To the emergency staff, nurses and doctors with a special mention to Emma, Liz and Dr. Hans and Jackie who accompanied the paramedics with transfer to Newmarket Hospital. Thank you for your outstanding care. Your professionalism, compassion and expertise did not go unnoticed.

We want to personally thank you for your unwavering commitment to excellence in patient care.

Our community is very fortunate to have all of you.

Sharon, Bob and Andrew Goss
Gooderham

Highlander business

Unique tastes drive people to Haliburton

By Mike Baker

It's been five weeks since Dirty Soda Girls, the latest addition to Haliburton's downtown, opened its doors and owners Jodie McCarthy and Tracy Hawkins say business is booming – so much so that they've already committed to bringing their seasonal operation back in 2026.

The sisters, who live in Burlington, were introduced to the Highlands six years ago after McCarthy bought a cottage in the area. It was love at first sight for the CPG specialist, who advanced things in late spring by investing in the new 165 Highland St. storefront. It opened June 26.

The idea to launch a dirty soda shop was Hawkins', jumping on a viral TikTok video from south of the border promoting the booze-free beverages first popularized in Utah.

"It all started with the Mormon community in Utah – because they can't have hot beverages and they can't have alcohol, they have these dirty soda shops everywhere. It's kind of like their Starbucks," McCarthy said.

The concept is simple – traditional pop such as Coca Cola, Sprite and Mountain Dew is combined with other ingredients, like fruit-based syrups, creams and ice, to form a "surprisingly refreshing" beverage, Hawkins said.

"It's a new take on the traditional root beer floats," she said. "I think it's going to be huge in Canada over the next five years."

The store offers two sizes – with a large mixed in custom Dirty Soda Girls buckets.

Jodie McCarthy and Tracy Hawkins say the dirty soda movement has taken off in Haliburton village. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Drinks are made using canned products, not fountain, providing a consistent, fresh taste each time, McCarthy said. All secondary ingredients are sourced from within Canada.

The menu features options like the Bobcaygeon, Coke with coconut syrup and lime finished with fresh cream; Rockstar, Dr. Pepper with peach syrup and coconut cream; You Outghta Know, soda water with raspberry and pineapple syrups and lime; and even an energy drink-inspired option, Sk8er Boi, which mixes Monster with pineapple, mango and passion fruit syrups and coconut cream.

If you think you recognize those names – that's by design. McCarthy and Hawkins used song titles from popular Canadian acts to label their options.

The drinks have been a big hit – both with locals and people from afar.

"We're seeing a lot of younger people. There's not a lot of dirty soda shops in Canada, so some have driven from hours away to check us out," McCarthy said. "It's great being able to educate people about what this is all about, because most have no idea when they walk through the door."

The new feature has helped draw eyes to other local causes – 50 cents from one limited-time drink, the Franklin, will go to Turtle Guardians to support its operations, while they're the only local carrier of Barking Brew beer for dogs, brewed at Boshkung Brewing. They've also released a clothing line, featuring T-shirts, hoodies and hats.

The ladies will be working hard daily until the Labour Day long weekend in September, transitioning to a Thursday-Sunday schedule between then and Thanksgiving, when it will close for the season. A full-time location is opening in Guelph soon.

Given the success already, the sisters say they'll definitely have another pop-up location in Haliburton next year. They'll also be taking their mobile unit to various events and are available for weddings and other private functions.

"It's something different. You can't find a drink like this anywhere else [in Haliburton County]. It's been fun getting started, getting to know people up here. We think this could be the start of something really special," McCarthy said.

MY Haliburton HIGHLANDS
Seniors Active Living Centre

Check out this month's SALC events and activities for residents aged 55+

August 5, 1 p.m.
Museum & Heritage Village Tour at Minden Hills Cultural Centre

August 7, 10 a.m.
Learn to Disc Golf at Abbey Gardens

August 13, 10 a.m.
Forest Bathing at Abbey Gardens

August 14, 28, 10 a.m.
Painting Class at Wilberforce Legion

August 15, 22, 29, 11 a.m.
Seniors Balance and Cardio Fitness at A.J. LaRue Arena

August 20, 10 a.m.
Garden Walk & Talk at Abbey Gardens

August 20, 2:30 p.m.
Qi Gong Lesson at Abbey Gardens

Drop-in Cards & Board Games

Mondays | 1 pm and Thursdays | 7 pm
Hosted at Minden Legion

Wednesdays | 6:30 pm
Hosted at Dorset Rec Centre

Thursdays (7th & 21st) | 1 pm
Hosted at Harcourt Community Centre

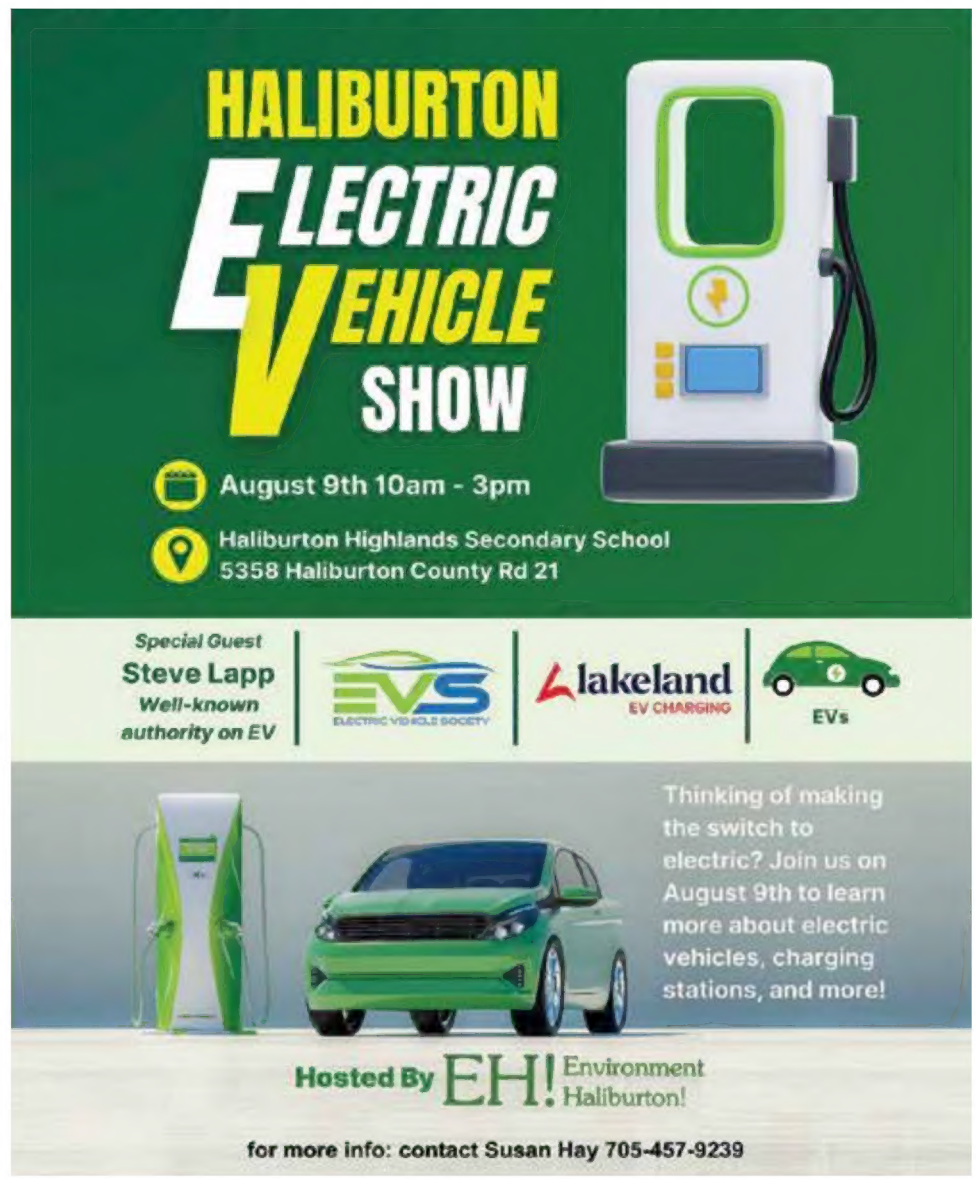
Fridays 10 am
Hosted at Haliburton Legion

Saturdays 2:30 pm
Hosted at Wilberforce Legion

Ontario

Funding for this program has been provided by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility

For more info, visit www.haliburtoncounty.ca/SALC or pick up a full calendar at a participating SALC location, including a Legion or Library near you!



Highlander business

Tom Prentice Sr. reminisces on 100 years of family business. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

100 years of trucking

By Mike Baker

For as long as he can remember, Minden's Tom Prentice Sr.'s life has revolved around maintaining roads across Haliburton County.

The longtime owner of Tom Prentice and Sons said his family is celebrating 100 years of service in the Highlands. At 84 years young, he's been along for the ride for the long haul.

Asked how he got his start during a July 25 interview, Prentice flipped through an old scrapbook and pointed at two men standing beside an orange bulldozer – his father, Duncan, and uncle, Morgan, who at different times led the company started by their father, W.W. Prentice around 1925.

"That was just right for me to sit on," Prentice said, pointing to a hydraulic cylinder by the bulldozer's operator's seat. "My dad carried an old floor mat on the thing, and I rode hour in and hour out sitting beside him. I remember riding with him when I first started school, but it was probably happening before that. Nobody can say I didn't grow up with it all."

As he progressed through school, Prentice knew he wanted to get into the family business. By then, his father had sold most of his equipment to his uncle and gone to work for the Ministry of Transportation. But Prentice knew he had a job with Uncle Morgan when he was ready.

He attended Hal High until Grade 10. During his final year, he said there was a shift towards encouraging students to continue their studies to Grade 12 – something few did back in those days. The idea, Prentice said, was to push students towards lucrative careers rather than menial ones.

"I remember one of the teachers, frustrated with me, one day saying 'Prentice, all you'll ever be is a truck driver,' thinking that was some big insult. I wanted to say 'well that's OK, that's the only reason I'm sitting here.' If it wasn't for my father, I'd have been out of there driving a truck already," he said.

After graduating, Prentice went to work for his uncle at Prentice Roads and Excavating, though by that time the business was pivoting to selling snowmobiles and trailers. Prentice initially had no plans to go into business for himself, but found roadwork fit him much better than selling. He bought his first truck, from his uncle, in 1968, birthing the Tom Prentice and Sons Trucking and Grading that we know today.

It wasn't a seamless transition – about 18 months later, Prentice recalls his truck catching fire in North Bay while driving one of his usual routes.

When he was back on the road, Prentice routinely drove routes to Wolf Island, Sault Ste. Marie and Elliot Lake. He later took on contracts from a company in Lindsay that did road resurfacing. "I went wherever I was needed… so got to see a lot of the province."

Prentice bought a second truck in 1989, just in time for his oldest son, Jack, to join the business. By the mid-1990s he'd added three more vehicles – two trucks and an excavator, taking on his other children Tom Jr., Terry and Tony.

When he took over the grading business from his uncle, Prentice said he had contracts to take care of seven cottage roads across the County. Today, the company maintains about 100.

Harking back to some of his best memories, Prentice recalled meeting "the Entertainer" Eddie Shack, a pro hockey player who featured for six National Hockey League teams between 1959 and 1975.

"He questioned me about what it was like being a trucker and stuff like that. We had a good visit. That would have been early 70s, when he was still playing," Prentice said.

While there were some tough times, Prentice said he was always "too bullheaded to quit." He's happy he stuck with trucking – especially now his sons have gotten involved, continuing the family legacy.

"I was surprised they all wanted to work for me, I never pushed it," Prentice said. "It makes me proud seeing what we've accomplished, what my boys have done. They've been running the company for some time now, probably 20 to 25 years."

Not that the patriarch is ready to pack things in – he still has a grading route that takes him across Haliburton County; north to Dorset, south to Kinmount and east of Haliburton village to Loon Lake.

"I get asked frequently when I'm going to fully retire – I just say when my health gives up. I'm pretty fortunate to still be able to get out. If I'm healthy next year, I'll be on the roads again."

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Open house: Sat August 9th, 11am-2pm

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Highlander arts

ADVERTORIAL

How to deter geese from your cottage

By Simon Payn

That grass sloping down to the lake gives you a lovely view of the water and plenty of space to play. What's not to like?

The trouble is, Canada Geese like it too!

Lakeside lawns create exactly the kind of habitat geese love. With its simple look and lack of vertical elements, this landscape is pretty close to the tundra that's the goose's natural home.

Why geese want to live with you

If you were to ask a goose about its ideal real estate, it would honk out several must-haves

First, easy walking access to water on a gentle slope – just like us, they don't want to waddle down a hill to get to the lake.

They also need clear views to spot predators from at least 30 feet away. During moulting season in late spring and early summer, this becomes even more critical – for four to six weeks, they can't fly and must rely on quick escape routes to water.

At other times of the year, unobstructed flight paths are essential since geese need takeoff angles less than 13 degrees.

And of course, they love tender grass to snack on, particularly mowed Kentucky Bluegrass that provides a constant supply of fresh shoots.

Taking away curb appeal

To make your property less attractive to geese, we need to disrupt this ideal habitat. The best way is to create barriers by planting densely with vegetation that grows at least 30 inches tall. When mature, these plants should touch each other, making it difficult for geese to walk through. Here at Grounded, we use tough groundcovers at the bottom, taller flowing perennials in the middle, and sturdy shrubs and trees that provide structure and height.

Blocking sightlines is another crucial strategy. By obstructing views beyond 30 feet, we make birds feel unsafe and less likely to settle in. This means blocking direct views of the water using dense plantings.

The plants themselves should be offputting to geese: grasses and sedges should be tough and fibrous with sharp-edged leaves that form dense growth, while herbaceous perennials need strong stems that don't easily bend and leaves that persist through the season. Shrubs should feature dense branching to ground level with rigid branches that don't easily part.

When choosing native plants, focus on those that have strong structures throughout the season – plants that don't flop or flatten easily. Year-round structure using shrubs is particularly valuable because it helps maintain the barrier in spring when the geese arrive but the herbaceous plants haven't got going yet.

But I want to enjoy the cottage!

The goal is to create a landscape that's both effective at deterring geese and attractive to humans. This is your cottage, so you might want to keep some lawn for the kids to play on. The key is to place it further away from the water. You can create pathways through the plantings to get to the lake while maintaining barriers that deter geese. Consider breaking up large lawn areas with islands of plantings to disrupt flight paths and sightlines while preserving usable space. Sometimes a view can be improved by obstructing it a little with a well-placed tree or shrub.

We can create a win-win here, with the only losers the geese. The key is making the space less like a goose's ideal habitat while making it more attractive for the kinds of nature we want to encourage.

The goal isn't to wage war on geese – it's to make your property less appealing to them while creating a richer, more diverse landscape that benefits everyone else, including you. And the geese? They can just honk off to your neighbour's lawn.

Simon Payn is the owner of Haliburton-based natural garden company, Grounded. To find out more, visit groundedgardens.ca.

Toronto resident David Janveaux has released his first children's book, set in Haliburton County, inspired by childhood visits to the area. *Submitted.*

Haliburton inspires new children's book

By Mike Baker

Growing up, David Janveaux always had fond memories of Haliburton County. Now, he's hoping to inspire similar feelings among younger generations for years to come.

The Toronto-based man recently published his first book *Babe and Pepé Bluebird's Big Flight*, a story about having the courage to try something new. Set in Haliburton County, the children's tale is inspired by Janveaux's visits to his grandmother, Kathleen Janveaux, who was known to all as Babe.

"I grew up spending many summers in Haliburton and Gooderham – Babe had a cottage in the Highlands before eventually moving to a house off Maple Avenue in Haliburton village, so I spent a lot of time there creating the best memories," Janveaux told *The Highlander.*

Whether they were enjoying late afternoon strolls down to Head Lake, concerts at the Haliburton Legion, once-popular events like the annual Highland Games and Midnight Madness, or taking in a movie at the Molou, Janveaux said he and Babe made the time they had together count.

"These smalltown memories really left a lasting impression on me and kind of planted a lot of the seeds for this book," he said. "It's about believing in yourself even if others doubt you, being the kind of person who lifts others up when they need it.

"There's a line in the story that is a direct quote from Babe, and that's 'the only way forward is trying it out'," Janveaux added, saying he's adopted that as his life's mantra.

He spent seven months writing and illustrating the book before publishing May 4. While a human resources professional in the city, Janveaux said the kid within him has always clamoured for a life in the arts. He completed a visual arts program in Oshawa while in high school, then studied architectural science at Ryerson University, now Toronto Metropolitan University.

In his second year of post-secondary, he took a creative writing elective that changed him. He fell in love with the process of merging fantasy and history together, transitioning to an English major.

While he's forged a successful career in HR, Janveaux said he routinely harked back to memories shared with Babe and her little black poodle, recreated in the book through Pepé. She passed more than a decade ago, but still that lesson of "just try" rang true.

"She always encouraged me to draw and doodle, and we would spend so much time talking and sharing funny stories – she liked to spin imaginative tales that I could never get enough of… for a long time I wanted to do something for myself, in terms of writing and publishing a book, but also something for Babe, to honour the connection we had," Janveaux said.

Reading the book back – it's stanzas rhyme, bringing a poetic feel – he feels it's a fitting tribute to the woman who has a bench dedicated in her memory on the walking path on the south side of Head Lake.

Janveaux still gets up to Haliburton semi-regularly, his aunt and uncle live in town, and said he could see this first book inspiring future stories – pulling from memories created with Babe and more recent ones.

Babe and Pepé Bluebird's Big Flight is available to purchase online through Amazon.

Highlander people

‘Maddy’ teaching mechanics and driving

By Lisa Gervais

Crystal (Maddy) Alton with sons, Brayden, 15, and Brody, 11. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Pulling up to Crystal (Maddy) Alton’s house in Minden, it’s obvious there is a love of mechanics. There are cars, ride-on lawnmowers, all-terrain vehicles, motorbikes and bicycles.

Her son Brody, 11, drives up on a BMX bicycle converted to a BMX mountain bike, while other son, Brayden, 15, tinkers with a quad he recently purchased.

Alton comes out of the house and pulls up a camping chair, saying there are about 20 kids that come by the place on a regular basis; to learn about mechanics, plumbing and electrical in all manner of vehicles. It’s become a neighbourhood thing.

“It’s revolving, everything moves,” Alton says of the vehicles in the driveway, garage and yard.

She said she is called ‘Maddy’ because she is neither a mommy or a daddy, but a combination of both.

Born and raised in Minden, a town she loves, Alton remembers her brother-in-law, Joe Nesbitt, being an early influence with his passion for derbies.

Her father also shaped her. She said she nervously came out to her dad, and he simply told her he knew. No big deal. She felt “normal”. He encouraged her to follow her interests and she said many people helped her learn about heavy equipment. On weekends, she worked at Rusty’s Garage as an apprentice, saying “without him saying ‘yes’ to me, I wouldn’t have had a spot to go to learn skills and he taught me so much.”

She moved to the city for a spell, working as a tow truck operator - “there’s nothing like sitting on a white line on the 401 changing a tire. You have to know your stuff” - and playing hockey. She met her former partner, Amanda, and they had boys together. She moved back to Minden, got her mechanic’s licence in 2008, and now works with Dysart et al.

Teaching kids

As for teaching kids, Alton says it started with Brayden and Brody when they were in diapers.

“We’ve been building and creating. Outside of the box thinking.”

As the boys grew, they made friends and the friends started coming around too, “and we’ve just slowly been adopting more children to the garage. It’s really a community thing.” In fact, it’s been dubbed the Whoville Garage.

She also credits her mom Dawn, sister Donna, and a long list of friends.

Alton added, “whenever we save some money, I’ll buy a car. It all started with derbies and ice racing.

“The kids all come over and I help a little, but I give them the tools and the power and a little knowledge and just send them off with it. I’m a big person on safety, so jackstands, jacks, blocks … just teaching them as, some day, they have to work on their own car or their own buggy or bike.

“We fix everything. It’s mostly teaching and watching. It brings me joy watching them grow and develop, even if they are not my own kids. They’ll come in, and the first time don’t know what a wrench is or a rachet, but next time, they do, saying ‘I have everything.’ Then, they learn to fix things.”

They also get some driving lessons in the driveway. “Most kids have never driven a car or lawn tractor, so I get them to move cars in the driveway. We have little kids learning how to park here.”

Competitions include getting the older kids to back up a truck and trailer into the driveway.

While Alton loves teaching the kids, racing is the other passion. The kids are fixing up cars that are going to the Grassroots Motorsports Park in Woodville for track racing.

She recalls winning a race in which Brody was her co-pilot. Alton said he noticed her hands shaking a bit when she was adjusting a mirror.

“There is nothing like that feeling when I’m in the car with Bro or Brayden. It happened to be Brody this time. I was nervous and then my 11-year-old buddy says ‘take a breath, Maddy, it’s ok. We’ve got this.’ Oh my God, your heart just stops – he’s telling me to calm down.”

Brayden won the summer showdown out of 38 cars.

They’ll next head to the Woodville track with tools, cars and kids from the Whoville Garage in October. The kids help other drivers with their vehicles, changing tires and gassing them up.

“Bringing all these kids together; watching them grow and develop and just become amazing kids. Some of them have changed, I’ve watched them change … for me, that’s pretty cool to see. I know they have fun…I have so much fun.”

Role model

Alton remembers when she first joined Dysart et al. “It’s tough for people when a woman comes in. At first, they were a little standoffish.” Not only was she gay, but a woman too. But she said she was neither of those labels, she was just herself. She added “once they realized I’m just me; it’s been perfectly fine. Now, we joke and laugh.”

Does she consider herself a role model?

“I never have, actually. With my kids, I’m just like their brother. I know I’m their Maddy…but I just say, ‘let’s go…not, oh, you shouldn’t do that.”

Highlander community

Furballs and humans move for Brooksong

By Lisa Gervais

Six cats and four dogs are doing their part to raise money for the Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre's sixth annual Haliburton Highlands Challenge.

Felines Fitz, Ella, Peaches, Champers, Luna, and Thomas and canines Poppy, Billy Rose, Nora and Henrick have been taking to their yoga mats – along with their human companions – to raise money for the Haliburton County-based charity.

The squad – dubbed Furball Yogis – is just one of 13 teams and more than 50 participants taking part in this year's challenge, which is running until Sept. 2.

Team organizer, Lynda Shadbolt, said, "Brooksong provides a soft place to land and experiences of belonging and care for so many individuals and families impacted by cancer. Team Furball is all about soft places to land. We embrace the work that Brooksong does for people in Haliburton and across the country."

She said the furballs' challenge is to join their humans on their yoga mats for 62 days, every day in July and August, when they practice yoga, qigong, meditation and relaxation.

Speaking on behalf of the animals, she added, "we love to breathe, stretch, nap and sometimes take over the whole mat. We excel at deep relaxation."

Shadbolt said people can receive a Zoom link for gentle furball yoga classes by signing up at furballyogis@gmail.com. They can donate money on the Brooksong HHC page.

"Our intention is to have fun, appreciate nature, life, share good vibes and raise money for a great cause," Shadbolt said.

Emma James, who is working on the retreat on behalf of Brooksong this summer, said they're nearly half way through the challenge "and the momentum is incredible. The outpouring of support has been nothing short of inspiring."

As of July 29, the challenge has raised nearly $38,000 towards its $100,000 goal.

Executive director Barbara Smith Morrison said they are delighted to have their first corporate team this year as well.

"I think that the HHC has become something really special through the years. There's fun and solidarity along with a shared belief that there is a powerful kind of healing when we come together as a community.

"Our HHC fundraisers and donors are a mix of people who are volunteers, staff, program alumni and people who believe deeply in Brooksong's work - providing support that reminds people they are seen, belong and don't have to face cancer alone."

On July 20, Hook, Line and Sinker in Haliburton hosted a Brooksong day between 5 and 8 p.m. and Sweat Social is hosting a 'sweat for support' workout Aug. 23 between 9-10 a.m. Morrison added, "there will be other fun Brooksong days across the County before the end of August."

Go to www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/brooksong/p2p/HHC2025/ to donate.

Above: Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre executive director Barbara Smith Morrison is flanked by John Watson and Chelsea Adamson of Sweat Social, hosting an event for the challenge Aug. 23. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.* Inset: Luna photobombs before hitting the mat with human companion, Lynda Shadbolt. *Submitted.*

THANK YOU!

The 2025 Matt Duchene Charity Golf Classic, held on July 18th, 2025 at Blairhampton Golf Club, was an outstanding success. The impressive generosity of the community resulted in over $234,000 being raised to benefit the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation. This achievement underscores the commitment of our sponsors and volunteers, whose combined efforts were essential to the event's execution. Thanks to Blairhampton G.C. and staff for a seamless golf day. The enthusiastic engagement of golfers and guests fostered a dynamic atmosphere, further enhanced by MC Rick Lowes and the expert auctioneering of Keith Moore. Special recognition is extended to the Duchene family for their steadfast dedication, which remains central to the ongoing success of this notable annual event. We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to the 2025 MDCGC, with particular appreciation for organizing committee members Troy Austen, Vince Duchene, and Susannah Moylan for their invaluable time and expertise. Your support is instrumental in advancing healthcare services within Haliburton County. We look forward to hosting another exceptional gathering in 2026!

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HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES FOUNDATION

Highlander community

Riding to put cancer in rearview mirror

By Mike Baker

As the clock ticks closer to midnight July 31, Highlands resident Katie Woodward is counting down the minutes for the official launch of her month-long cycling fundraiser benefitting SickKids hospital in Toronto.

Now in its fourth year, Woodward's Great Cycle Challenge has raised more than $30,000, while her journeys have seen her navigate 2,103 kilometres of the County's roads and trails.

During her first event in 2022, Woodward rode 624 kilometres and raised $6,193. In year two she increased those totals to 783 kilometres and $7,218, before completing another 696 kilometres and raising a record $11,291 last year.

She's making great ground already this summer, raising $5,879 as of July 31 – before doing any pedalling at all. She's aiming to hit $7,000 and ride at least 500 kilometres.

"I've enjoyed cycling for a number of years. The first year I signed up, I really had no idea what I was capable of doing in a month. I targeted 200 kilometres, but quickly went past that. It's always interesting to see how much more I can tag on for the month," she said.

She primarily trains on the Haliburton County Rail Trail and is a frequent visitor to scenic systems around Sir Sam's. She says that's where the bulk of her rides will take place, though noted she pounds her fair share of pavement on roadways too.

Katie Woodward is raising money for SickKids, attempting to ride 500 kilometres in August for the fourth straight year. *Photo submitted.*

While people can contribute on the fundraising side of things, Woodward is also encouraging the public to join her on rides. She's organized two community events, Aug. 2 and 9, cycling from Gelert to Haliburton village and back.

The first was planned so Woodward could meet Haliburton Lions Club members, who have donated every year, with the second including members of the Haliburton ATV Association. The approximate 40 kilometre round-trip rides will begin at 10 a.m., with Woodward estimating arrival at their destination, the plane at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School (HHSS) around 12:30 p.m.

"Any cyclist that wants to come out is absolutely welcome – it will be more of a leisurely, fun ride," Woodward said, with the latter event also including ATVers. "It's such a random pairing, but it's a perfect example of people from different interest groups coming together for one really good cause."

Woodward said she was inspired to raise money after seeing the impact cancer has had on several friends and members of family. One day, she came across a story online about a child fighting for their life at SickKids and it struck a chord.

"Just the thought of it affecting kids really broke my heart and motivated me even more to keep pushing," she said.

Following her second ride, she connected with Tabitha Tiley-Warring, a fellow County resident, whose young daughter, Leah, was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, aggressive B-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, four days before Christmas 2023. She was referred to SickKids and, after some treatment, has been in remission since April 2024.

"She is one year cancer free thanks to the work SickKids does. It's such an important organization, they do absolutely phenomenal work – it's a no-brainer to support them," she said. "Any donation is appreciated, even if it's a few dollars. Every penny that goes into that organization is directed where it needs to go and stays in Canada helping those who truly need it."

To donate, visit greatcyclechallenge.ca/riders/katiewoodward.

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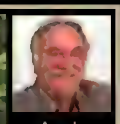

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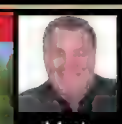

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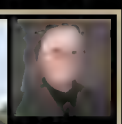

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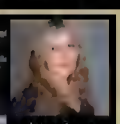

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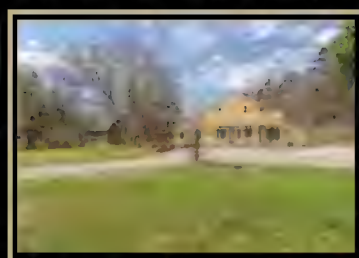
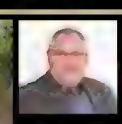

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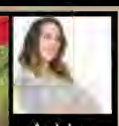

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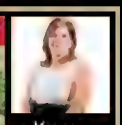

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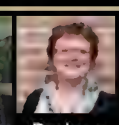


Darlene Reil* (705) 854-2055

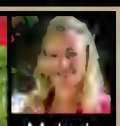
Irondale River $439,000
- Well kept 3 bedroom home with garage
- Workshop, "she" shed, walk to amenities
- Storage sheds sitting on banks of Irondale Riv

Christine Sharp* (416) 566-1592

Contau Lake $1,495,000
- 3 Beds/2 Baths, 3,300+ SqFt, Post & Beam
- Zoned Heating & Cooling, Lg Heated Shop
- Dtch'd 26'x40' Garage, Oversized Dock

Greg Stamp* (705) 455-2231

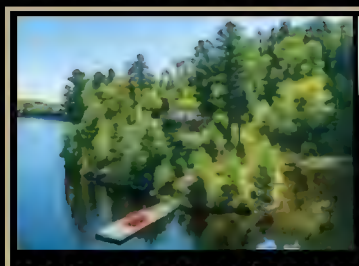
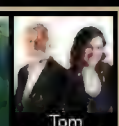
Green Lake $675,000
- 6 Beds/3 Baths, 4,000SqFt, 0.57 Acres
- Radiant In-Flr Heating, Lg Chef's Kitchen
- Direct Access To 4-Lake Chain, New Dock



NEW LISTING

Melanie Vigrass* (705) 754-5494

Carnarvon Area $649,000
- Lovely 2+den/2 bath home, Att'd Garage
- Open Concept, Cathedral Ceilings
- Full Finished Lower Level, Main Flr Laundry

Tom Wilkinson** (705) 457-6839
Lindsay Wilkinson* (705) 854-1454

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Highlander sports

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Greg Foster tackles Earl's hole at the Minden Whitewater Preserve July 26. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

READ THE NEWSPAPER. ANYWHERE.

Returning from worlds and pumped for 2027

By Lisa Gervais

There's pretty much nowhere Greg Foster would rather be than Earl's hole at the Minden Whitewater Preserve.

Climbing out of his kayak for a chat, Foster says, "this is my happy place; where I come to relax, be by myself, do what I love to do."

He's not long back from Plattling, Germany, where he competed in the 2025 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships. Foster qualified in OC1 and C1, where he placed 8th and 16th respectively.

"It was an amazing experience," Foster says while seated on a bench overlooking Earl's hole on the Gull River.

He didn't place as well as he wanted, but it was his first worlds. "I couldn't really expect huge things from a first-time world event."

His home river was much different than the one in Plattling, so it was a challenge, "going from something I know to something I have no idea what I'm dealing with."

He chides himself for being a bit last minute. He said he had a day to watch competitors on the river and maybe only 10 minutes of practice. He spent a lot of time on his knees in a canoe waiting for his slot and "it got painful."

He added the water levels were very low, with rocks only about eight inches below the surface. He said organizers had to end the event early for the safety of competitors and their boats.

Foster said if he were to do it again – and he is hoping to qualify for the 2027 worlds in Sort, Spain – he'll go two or three weeks in advance to practise. "I want to get the best possible outcome."

There's also time between now and then. Foster said there will be team trials in 2026. He plans to try out for a bunch of events: K1, C1, OC1, and see where he gets seated "and go from there."

He's asked if it is rare to compete in so many events and says it is. For him, the phrase 'jack of all trades, master of none' is reversed as 'jack of all trades, master of all.'

"I always get told by people, 'I get bored on the river.' I never get bored. There's always something to do. There's always improvement … miniscule skills, something as simple as efficient ferrying, I keep the river interesting."

One thing he needs to work on is boat control, and getting in tune with the hole as it reacts to his boat. One thing he struggled with at June's worlds was left-handed paddling for tricks. He's used to right-handed at Earl's. "I was trying to learn on my off side on the fly."

He said Sort will favour left and right. And, it's a powerful hole. He said in Minden, Earl's flushes out boaters naturally. But not so in Sort. It means the prospect of being "washing machined or window shaded.

"You get 45 seconds to throw your best, and do your best combinations of tricks you can possibly do. If you get window shaded for 20 seconds of that, you have to try to recover within two seconds, and try to continue your run."

He is already excited for his second worlds, mind you. "Time flies so I just make the best of the time I have this summer, I'm probably only going to have May, June and part of July 2026 and then team trials within a year from now."

Tree monkey

By day, Foster is an arborist, or as he refers to it, a "tree monkey." He tries to get out at least a couple of nights a week after work if not too exhausted, Most weekends, he's on the river.

He said two of his friends got injured recently. He does not want to be on the river when his temperature is already elevated or he is dehydrated from working in hot, humid weather, since "the river is unforgiving and it favours no one."

Foster said it can be non-stop, recalling a recent 12-hour drive to compete in Quebec. Plus, there's the financial toll.

He's asked about sponsors, but says he's never really had one, and isn't sure what that would look like. "If someone wanted to help me out financially to get overseas when the time comes, or if I need to buy new gear. But for the most part, I like to try and stay self-sufficient. I don't really like to put my hand out, it makes me feel like a beggar. I like to stay strong and do it myself."

After all, up to now, it's between Foster and the river.

"I have a respect for it, but I don't have a fear of it. I can do whatever I want, how I want, and no one can say anything …it's just total freedom."

Highlander volunteers

Volunteers recognized

Three community leaders were recognized for their contributions in helping raise future leaders this month. Kelly Bergshoeff, Carol Mowat and Margaret Thompson each received Ontario Volunteer Service awards July 14 for their work with Girl Guides of Canada, which has chapters in Haliburton and Minden. Offered to girls aged 5 to 17 and covering groups such as Sparks, Brownies, Guides, Pathfinders and Rangers, the programs focus on building confidence, leadership skills and creating a supportive community for young girls. For more information, contact haliburton.guiding@gmail.com or on-acl30@girlguides.ca. *(Mike Baker)*

Carol Mowat was recognized for 20 years of service to Girl Guides of Canada, with Kelly Bergshoeff honoured for 40 years of volunteer work and Margaret Thompson for 25 years. *Photo submitted.*

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received applications to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land, being shoreline road allowances, more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLSRA2024043:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Denna Lake, lying in front of 1010 Bunker Lane, located within Part Lot 7 & 8, Concession 11, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
2. **File No. PLSRA2025017:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Gull Lake, lying in front of 1014 Orchid Lane, located within Part Lot 19, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Lutterworth
3. **File No. PLSRA2025018:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Gull Lake, lying in front of 1021 Zenith Drive, located within Part Lot 19, Concession 7, Geographic Township of Lutterworth

The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced applications, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than end of day on **August 29, 2025**.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than August 29, 2025.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closures and conveyances will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider By-laws for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requiste commenting period.

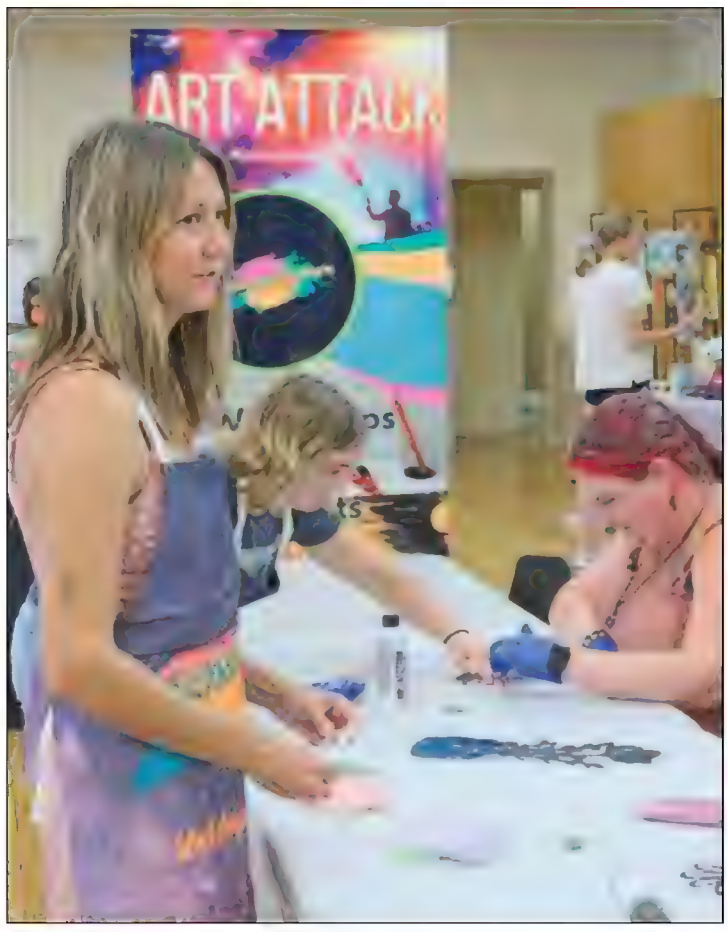
Donna Sisson
Clerical Assistant, Building, By-Law and Planning
Township of Minden Hills
705-286-1260 Ext. 509
dsisson@mindenhills.ca

PLSRA2024043

PLSRA2025017

PLSRA2025018

Highlander events



Getting creative

Art went on the offensive July 27 on the second floor of A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton as Workshops Events Ontario brought a pair of 'Art Attack' workshops to the area. The sessions, held at noon and 2 p.m. as part of a summer artisan market, brought together "like-minded people who have a passion and appreciation for creativity, arts, imagination, authenticity, the power of nature, health, and achieving a balanced lifestyle." *(Mike Baker)*

Left: Ashley Brazeau helped lead Workshops Events Ontario's 'Art Attack' session. Right: Pieces of stained wood were painted and decorated during the 'Art Attack' event. *Photos by Sally Huang.*

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Highlander events

Shakers and noise makers

Music was in the air at Haliburton United Church July 26 as Highlands Opera Community School hosted an experimental percussion and sound workshop. The two-hour event attracted a dozen people and was the latest pitstop on the year-long 'Let's Make an Opera' project. Percussionist Michael Murphy was on-hand offering advice on how to transform everyday objects into unique instruments – and, most importantly, how to generate noise with them. *(Mike Baker).*

Left: Percussionist Michael Murphy led Saturday's workshop. Right: Wendy Taxis, Melody Truong, Murphy, Grethe Jensen and Margaret Milne working on some unique homemade instruments. *Photos by Sally Huang.*

Home of Haliburton Grassroots

MVPS!

Aliyah Cox - Girls 10-11 - Navy Team

Ander Brown - Boys 7-9 - Purple Team

Connor Cox - Co-ed 4-6 - Teal Team

Danielle Chambers - Girls 10-11 - White Team

Elsie Webb - Co-ed 4-6 - Kiwi Team

Inga Russell - Girls 7-9 - Purple Team

Kenna Coulter, Gemma Fahrun & Veda Stich-nothe - Girls 7-9 - Silver Team

Noah Barry & Rome Hicks - Boys 7-9 - White Team

Smiles and high spirits when final whistle blows

With another exciting week of Haliburton's finest soccer coming to a close, these young superstars are truly finding their stride and starting to perfect many of the basic skills of the game, thanks in large part to the dedication and support of their volunteer coaches.

As footwork sharpens and on-field communication continues to improve, the plays are becoming faster and more dynamic, while the overall gameplay is beginning to spread out across the field in a more strategic way.

After spending a few weeks getting to know the strengths, personalities, and styles of their players, coaches are now beginning to focus their guidance and encouragement in ways that suit each individual.

Parents are noticing real growth in their child's self-confidence along with a stronger sense of teamwork and unity that becomes more visible with every passing week. There are always highs and lows that come with every game, but no matter the final score, it is always smiles and high spirits when the final whistle blows. *(Submitted)*

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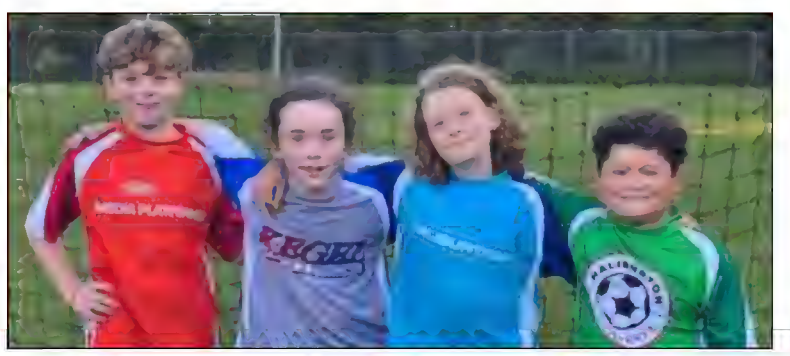

Boys 10-13 Group MVPs

Left to right: Jack Elliot - Media Platforms Inc Trail Blazers; Ruairi Byrne - Kegal Kickers; Damien Podmore-Casey - Haliburton Crew United; Santiago Renel - Grassroot's Swift Strikers.

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2025 Stingray 182 SC

Yamaha VF115 SHO, Tonneau cover, Bimini Top, Ski Bar, Flip up Bolster seat

2025 Stingray 172 DC

Yamaha F90, Tonneau cover, Bimini Top, Ski Bar, Flip up Bolster

2025 Stingray 172

Full Windshield, Yamaha VF115 SHO, Tonneau and Bow cover, Bimini top, ski bar, Flip up Bolster Seat

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Highlander outdoors

Frying up funds

The North Hastings Community Fish Hatchery (NHCFH), which serves Highlands East, held its 19th annual dinner and auction fundraiser July 12 in Bancroft, raising over $30,000. Volunteers collect lake trout and brook trout eggs from local lakes and transport them to the hatchery, where they're grown for two years. Once they've reached a length of 10-to-12 inches, the fish are stocked in lakes and rivers around Haliburton County and Hastings, with 7,000 moved annually. Mike Thomas, president of the Paudash Lake Conservation Association, said about 150,000 fish have been stocked through the program since 2006. "We are one of the only Ontario hatcheries that grows the fish for two years, giving them a better chance of natural survival upon release," Thomas said. The hatchery's annual operating costs are pegged at $50,000. *(Mike Baker).*

Above left: NHCFH president Kevin Vance accepts a $5,000 municipal contribution from Highlands East mayor and Haliburton County warden Dave Burton. Top right: It was a full house at the Bancroft Curling Club, with 282 attendees. Bottom right: Hatchery and community volunteers cooked the food for the popular fish fry. *Photos submitted.*

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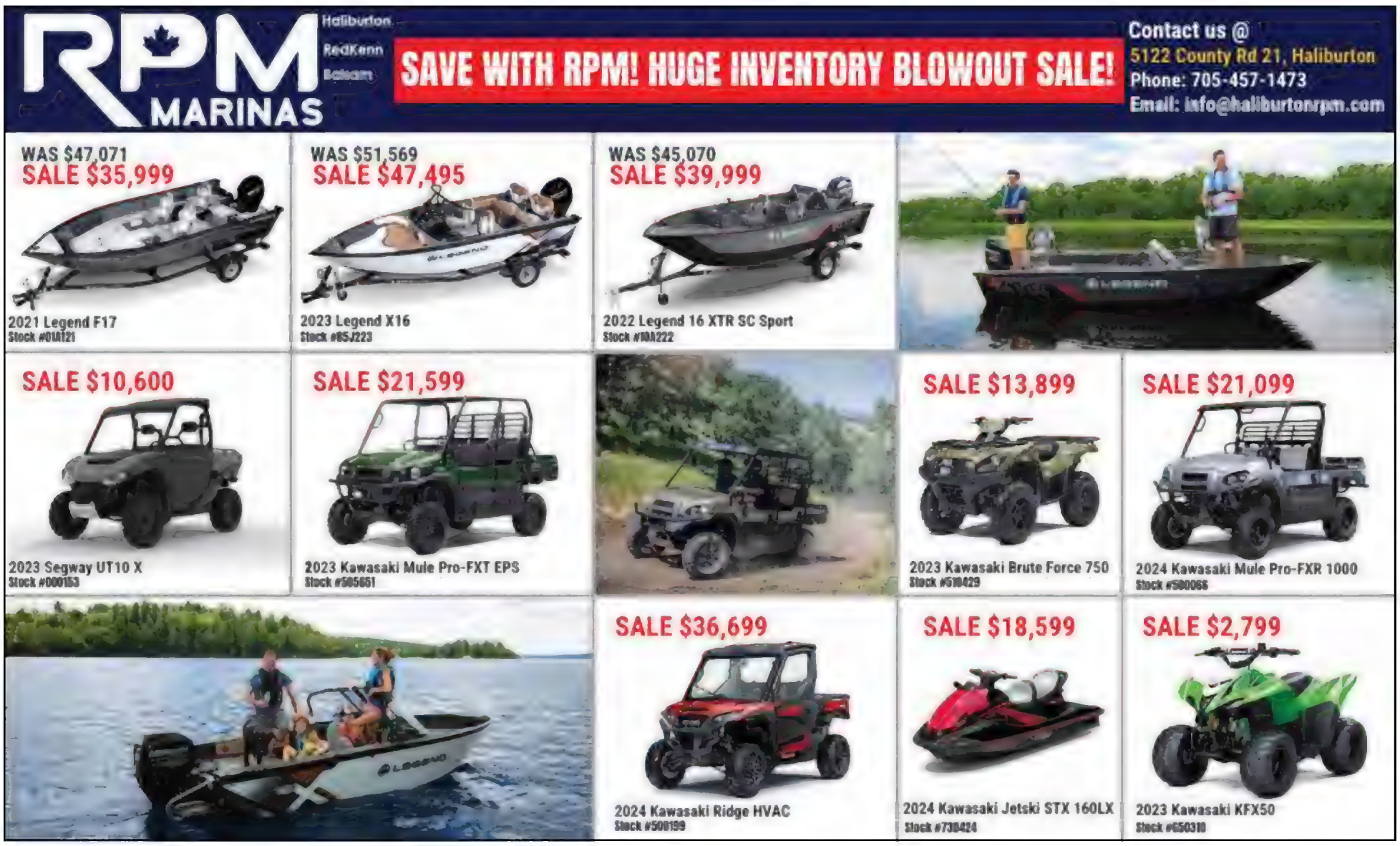
Junior highlanders

Learning through summer

The Haliburton County Public Library has been a place for continued learning for local youth through summer, offering various informative workshops and interactive presentations through its STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) programming. Whether it's LEGO robotics, Osmo coding playhouse, summer reading club, geocaching, or tech time sessions, there's something for children of all ages and abilities throughout the week at the Dysart et al and Minden Hills branches. Through July programs attracted 78 youth.

STEAM programming at the Dysart et al and Minden Hills HCPL branches have been popular. *Photos courtesy of HCPL.*



What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed.
Tuesdays: Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Fun darts at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, Remembrance Hall. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with a 7 p.m. start time, Remembrance Hall. There will be a $1,000 jackpot Aug. 6, Sept. 3, and Oct. 1. Snack bar available from 5:30 p.m. – French fries and hot dogs available while supplies last.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom. Beginning July 4, board games for seniors from 10 a.m. to noon.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.

Upcoming events: Drum circle July 13, Aug. 3, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 16, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, with a 1 p.m. start time.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for rental information call Cheryl Waller at 905- 447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129…everyone is welcome!

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' **Tuesday**.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Mondays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Tuesdays: closed
Wednesdays: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Thursdays: open 2 to 6 p.m.
Fridays: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: open 2 to 9 p.m.
Sundays: closed, special events only

Darts at 7 p.m. Aug. 4, 11, 18 and 25. Cost is $5 per player. Afternoon sessions are at 2 p.m. Aug. 6, 13, 20 and 27, cost is $4 per person.

We have suspended our cornhole league.

EVENTS

July 31, Enjoy a movie under the stars at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, which is showcasing two family-friendly features this summer. First up is *The Adventures of Greyfriars Bobby* July 31, with *The BFG* screening Aug. 28. Movies begin at dusk. Bring a lawn chair, blanket and snacks. Admission is by donation. Movies will be shown indoors if it rains. Afternoon movie features are at 1 p.m. Aug. 22 (*Strange World*).

Aug. 1, 10:30 to 11 a.m. stop by the Dysart branch of the Haliburton County Public Library for a special family storytime with Aimee Reid, author of *Animal Snuggles* and *Baby Animals Trying*. Her stories are perfect for young listeners and their families. Copies of her books will be available for purchase and signing.

Aug. 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. SIRCH Repair Café returns to the Bistro & Bakery in Haliburton village. A talented team of volunteers is available is help repair everything from electronics and small appliances to furniture, textiles, ceramics, bikes and jewellery. The monthly event brings people together, offering a friendly space to learn, connect and share skills. For more information, call 705-457-1742.

Aug. 5, 10 a.m. Free guided walking tours in the Haliburton Sculpture Forest every Tuesday in July and August. Meet at the kiosk in the Fleming College - Haliburton School of Art + Design parking lot, at 297 College Dr. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Tours are held rain or shine and can take up to two hours. Tours are free but donations are greatly appreciated. For more information visit: www.haliburtonsculptureforest.ca.

Aug. 5, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Author Phyllis Bordo is visiting Master's Book Store in Haliburton, discussing her Lilly Esther book series with attendees. Her books tackle health and wellness issues such as anxiety, grief and loss, believing in yourself and the environment, while also focusing on love and humour. She will also be doing readings at the Minden branch Aug. 9.

Aug. 5, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Learn the basics of coding in an instructor-led program at the Minden Hills branch of the Haliburton County Public Library. Introducing youth to the Scratch coding system, teaching computer coding concepts to kids in a way that is simple and fun. Recommended for ages eight and up. Registration required at haliburtonlibrary.ca/programs-events or by calling 705-457-2241.

Aug. 5, 4 to 5 p.m. Kids aged six years or older who want to learn about gardening are welcome to join the Horticultural Society Youth Members Program. Email minden.jr.hort.club@gmail.com for more details.

Aug. 5, 4 to 9 p.m. Haliburton Rotary presents Summerfest at Head Lake Park. Free family-friendly children's activities, beef on a bun, hot dogs, cotton candy, popcorn, draw for the Rotary ATV, and a concert featuring Adverse Conditions. Admission by donation. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

Aug. 6, 2 p.m. Join award-winning author and poet Catherine Graham at the Dysart branch of the Haliburton County Public Library for a dynamic workshop designed to help writers of all levels overcome creative blocks to help get words flowing. Registration required at haliburtonlibrary.ca/programs-events or by calling 705-457-2241.

What's on

Just for laughs

More than 70 people turned out for Pride in the Highlands' comedy show July 25. The event was held at Sir Sam's Ski and Bike. Pride chair Allan Guinan said it was "a night of great food and good laughs."

Left: The Queer Comedy Troupe of Ted Morris, Heather Marino, Lou Currie, Jane Moore and Robert Watson. Top centre: Moore of Boshkung Lake does her routine. Top right: Show host Watson. Bottom centre: The crowd at Sir Sam's Ski and Bike listens to Allan Guinan. Bottom right: Marino entertains the crowd.*Submitted.*

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YARD SALE

YARD SALE – 2554 North Shore Road, Algonquin Highlands. Saturday, August 2nd form 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Don't miss this multi-category sale! We've got housewares, tools, books, picture frames, games, jewelry, furniture, and lots more – something for everyone! FOR

MOVING SALE – 1019 Spring Valley Rd, Minden., Saturday, August 2nd from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Air Conditioner, lumber, battered operated lawn tools, paint, power station 4, household items and much more!

MULTI YARD SALE – 1224 & 1278 Hamilton Road, Minden, Saturday, Aug 2nd from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tools, toys, furniture, housewares, cast iron cookware, antique gas cans, saws & much more!

YARD SALE

YARD SALE – 1244 Rice Road, Minden, Saturday, August 2nd & Sunday, August 3rd from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Construction various items & drywall, 3 saws, household items & much more!

YARD SALE – 1074 Paradise Cove Rd, Haliburton. Saturday, August 2nd & Sunday, August 3rd from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lawn wagen, Paddle Boats, Garden Bench, Chiminea Stove, Oil Lamps, household items & much more!

MONSTER GARAGE & TENT SALE 1112 Plantation Road off Bobcaygeon Road. Saturday 2nd from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rain or Shine! Mostly new or like-new items. New boxed toys, giftware, kitchen stuff, books, décor, lamps, toolboxes, DVD's and more!

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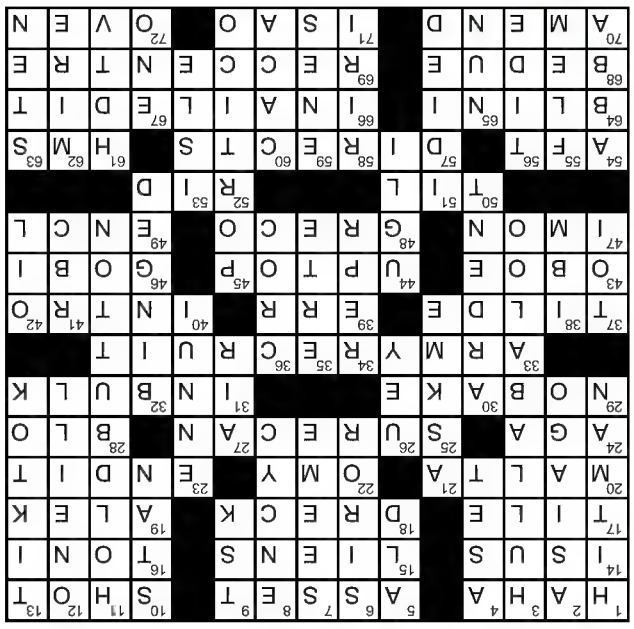
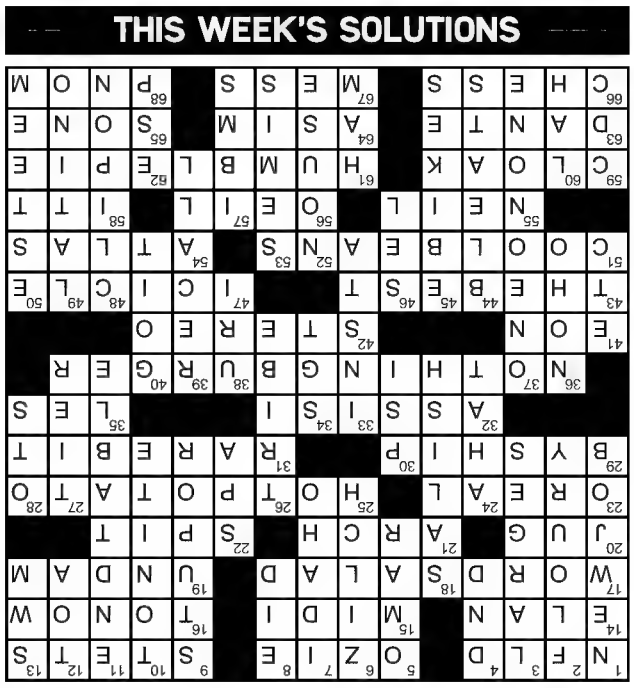
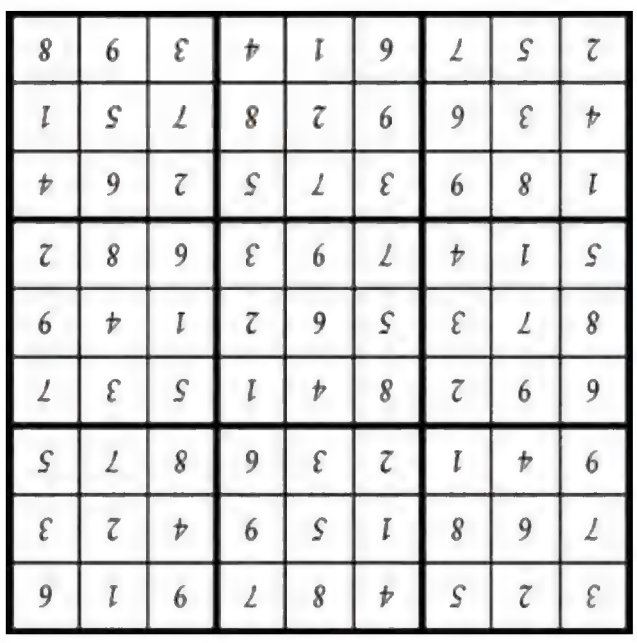


THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS





HELP WANTED

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton is currently recruiting for Two (2)

Administrative Clerks

Reporting to the Executive Assistant, the Administrative Clerk provides a range of clerical and administrative support such as preparing meeting materials, taking minutes, maintaining filing systems in accordance with our records management program, maintaining accurate scheduling and calendar management.

This position reports to the County of Haliburton Administration Office, Monday - Friday, 8:30am – 4:30pm, 35 hours per week. The 2025 hourly rate for these unionized CUPE 1960 positions is $26.09 and includes participation in the OMERS defined benefit pension program and comprehensive, employer paid extended healthcare benefits.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **4:30pm on August 15, 2025**.

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.
In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

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RENT – 1 Bedroom apartment in Haliburton, screened porch, satellite tv, walking distance to downtown, Schools, & Hospital. No pets, no smoking. $1,200. / month includes heat & hydro. Call 705-455-9878

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FOR SALE – GUILFORD FIREWOOD – Nicely cut and split, ready to burn. $130. per face cord – pick up. Delivery available, call 705-754-3034

FOR SALE

FOR SALE – THE WAIT IS OVER … Our award winning Honey Butter is back! (Clove, Golden Honey, Creamed & Wax also available) Call Tom at 705-286-3628 or stop by at 2801 Blairhampton Road, Minden

FOR SALE – Sailboat Catamaran 16 ft, build in 1980. Trampoline newly replaced & new fiberglass on boat haul. Comes with 2 sets of rigging (main Jib & Mast0 Trailer included $1,100. Pick up Percy Lake or will deliver local for $50. Call or text 403-923-9191

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FOR SALE

FOR SALE – Ontario Garlic & Scapes, Garlic & Scape Powders, Garlic Sauces, Spreads, Jams, Jellies, Pickles, SEED GARLIC. 1434 Kashagawigamog Lake Road, 2.2 km from County Road 21, Minden 705-286-1617

FOR SALE – Muskoka Design Golden Select gorgeous laminate, 15mm thick, 16cm wide, 121cm long. 11 cases @12.5 sq/ft per case. Paid $50. Per case, selling for $25. Per case. Call Elaine at 647-624-6606

FOR SALE - 14' Aluminum Boat with Yamaha model 8MSHG MFD 2008 - 8HP outboard includes gas tank (no trailer). Motor runs like a top, the boat may have a small leak, Ran it all last season. Small crack in the transom $900 OBO Contact Glenn at 905-767-5680 text or call.

FOR SALE – Steel Tonka toys $20. each, 2 parlour stoves $50. Each, Large wicker rocking chair $25. utility trailer 15" wheels $500. Or B/O, electric gogo scooter with new battery $500. Or B/O, Electric Chainsaw $50. Electric snow blower $50. Assorted chains & traps, 9 ½ hp motor vertical shaft $250. Or B/O, 2 tandem axle connected with 12" tires $400. Or B/O

FOR SALE – 15' 6" Classic Canoe, 1961 Chestnut Cedar Strip Canvas Canoe. Excellent condition, with fresh red interlux paint. 2nd owner of 43 years. $2,100. Call James at 705-457-5792

FOR SALE - 1993 Chev Caprice Classic LS 254 kms, not running, great restoration potential. Stored indoor, pick-up North of Harcourt. Asking $1,000. Call 647-389-2747

HELP WANTED

MARK'S RESTAURANT - looking for a Server, part time, must be able to work evenings & weekends. Please call Wilson at 705-286-1818 or drop resume off at the Restaurant.

HIRING: REGULAR MASSAGE SUPPORT, experience good but not necessary, will train you. Between Minden / Carnarvon. $30. + per hr, negotiable, flexible schedule. (1-3 times a week) Contact theheartwoodfarm@gmail.com

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WANTED – Scrap metal, fridges, stoves, any metal. We will pick up. Please call 519-820-5701 this is a Gooderham phone number.

EVENT

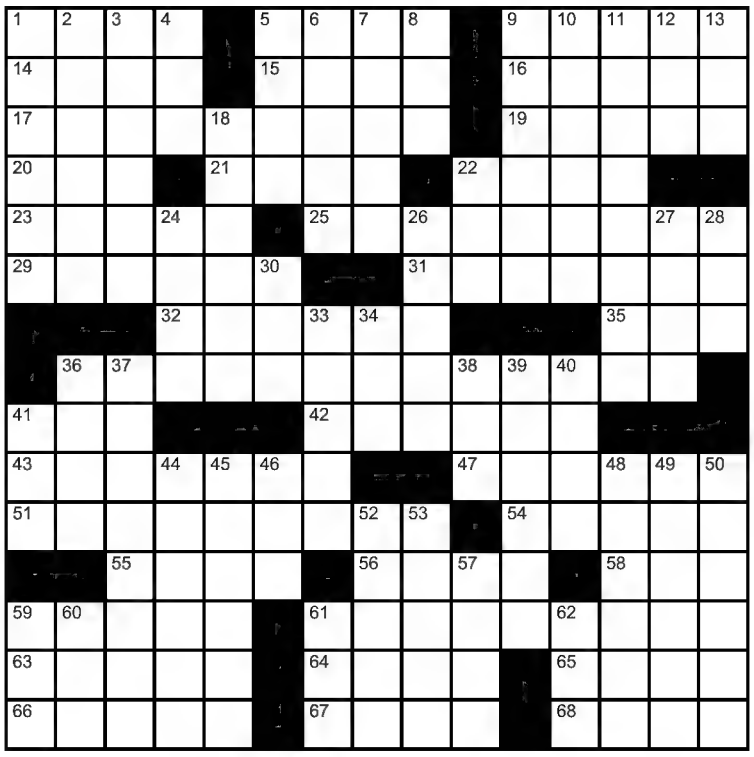
EVENT - STAINED GLASS WORKSHOPS from beginner up. Learn the art of Stained Glass in one or two day classes.. Call Tom at 705-286-3628

EVENT – KARATE CLASSES starting September 2nd in Minden for all ages. Tuesday & Thursday from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 7th Dan Black Belt Instructor. Contact Ron at 705-286-3823

Highlander puzzles

You'll Eat Your Words

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords



Across

1 Provincial partner of Labrador: Abbr.
5 Men's neckwear brand
9 Dele reversals
14 Spirited style
15 Thigh-hiding skirt
16 As yet
17 Gobbledygook
19 Remove a beaver's work
20 Beer order for a gang
21 Angry cat's back shape
22 Rotisserie rod
23 "Because You're Worth It" beauty brand, L'___
25 Extremely touchy subject
29 Way to travel the seas
31 Welsh cheese dish
32 St. Francis's birthplace
35 "___ Miz" (b'way smash, casually)
36 Big flop, despite the hype
41 Big time?
42 Dual sound system
43 Tina Turner's "Simply ___"
47 Winter eave-clinger
51 "Awesome!"
54 World book
55 Juno-winning Young
56 French "eye"
58 Addams Family's cousin
59 ___-and-dagger
61 Just dessert for a regretful one
63 "Inferno" poet
64 "Sure ___ Sittin' Here" (Three Dog Night song)
65 Sound unit
66 "The Queen's Gambit" game
67 Housekeeper's challenge
68 ___ Penh, Cambodia

Down

1 Axed worker's search
2 Like a bread baker's hands
3 Sizes for bigger bodies
4 Role-playing game, for short
5 Actor Sharif
6 Nada
7 Spud state
8 Post-Ramadan feast
9 Boozy haze
10 This evening, phonetically
11 Place for a living room lamp
12 Ode title words
13 Caucasian bachelor, in personals
18 First Nation of southern B.C.
22 Me Day destination, maybe
24 At the drop of ___
26 Indigenous clan
27 Two-___ healthcare
28 Do-or-die periods
30 Greek letter resembling an "I don't know" emoji
33 App with a camera logo
34 RCMP rank above Cpl.
36 NYC or LA district
37 Without a go-between
38 Geller of psychokinesis
39 Visit memory lane
40 ___ alone (fly solo)
41 And so on, for short
44 Sheepish comments?
45 Cyclist's hybrid rides
46 Poivre partner
48 Like some ties or earrings
49 Spanish descendent
50 Revere greatly
52 Utterly ineffective
53 Truck stop sights
57 Old office PCs
59 U.S. health agcy.
60 "Di-dah" lead-in
61 Seussian shunned serving
62 Futuristic vision?

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	2							
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9						8	7	5
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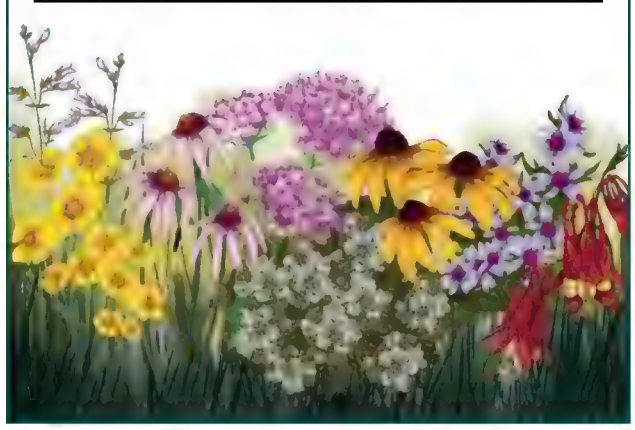

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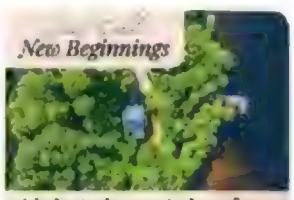
Kennisis Lake
$2,099,000
3 5



Little Redstone Lake
$1,850,000
3 3

Growler Lake
$1,795,000
4 5

Kawartha Lakes
$1,579,000
3 3

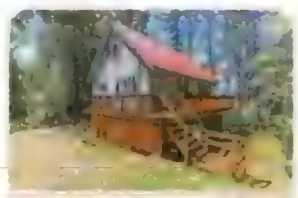
Koshlong Lake
$1,050,000
3 4

Eagle Lake Area
$999,900
2 3

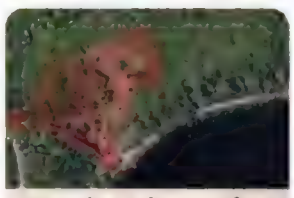
Canning Lake
$949,900
2 3

Kennisis Lake
$949,500
2 3

Long Lake
$893,990
2 6


Kennisis Lake
$875,000
1 2

Kennisis Lake
$874,900
2 3


Horseshoe Lake
$849,997
3 3

Beech Lake
$824,900
2 2

Trooper Lake
$729,000
2 3

Kennisis River
$725,000
1 3

Wilbermere Lake
$725,000
1 3

Koshlong Lake
$689,000
1 2

Eagle Lake Area
$659,900
1 2

Salerno Lake
$659,000
1 3

Koshlong Lake Road
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2 3

Kushog Lake
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2 4

Boshkung Lake Road
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1 3

Wilberforce
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2 3

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1 2

Gelert Road
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1 2

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Gooderham Lake
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The Highlander

WEEKEND

Thursday July 31, 2025

ROTARY FESTIVALS ..... PAGE 2
TOUR DE FOREST ..... PAGE 3
SCHOOLHOUSE POP-UP ..... PAGE 4
ARTS AND CRAFTS FESTIVAL ..... PAGE 6

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR SUMMER IN THE HIGHLANDS

Jumping into summer

Lucy Davis jumps off a bridge to cool off in a river as Highlanders have been doing their best to beat the heat. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

WEEKEND

MY Haliburton HIGHLANDS

What's Happening in your county...

July 31 & Aug 1 Drinking Habits - Theatre - Highlands Summer Festival

Aug 1 Midnight Madness - Shopping - Hosted in Downtown Haliburton

Aug 3, 4, 5 & 6 Feeling Buble - Live Entertainment - hosted at Northern Lights Pavilion

Aug 5 Rotary Summerfest - Event - hosted at Head Lake Park, Haliburton

Aug 8 & 9 Wilberforce Agricultural Fair - Event - hosted at the Wilberforce Fairgrounds

Aug 9 Rotary Fest on Main - Event - hosted on Main Street of Minden Village

Aug 9 Country Legends - Live Entertainment - Hosted at Kennisis Lake Marina

Aug 12 Casual Song Soirée - Live Entertainment - Hosted by Highlands Opera Studio

Aug 14 The Grown-Ups - Live Theater - Hosted at Haliburton Legion

Aug 16 Beach Party Boys - Live Entertainment - Hosted at Abbey Gardens

To see the full listings of events, visit

myhaliburtonhighlands.com/whats-happening

COMMUNITY

Jeff Moulton draws the truck-winning ticket at last year's Summerfest. *File.*

Fabulous day of free fun

By Lisa Gervais

Head Lake Park will be filled with free games and activities for kids of all ages to enjoy as Haliburton Rotary Summerfest returns Aug. 5, from 4-7:30 p.m.

Spokesperson Ursula Devolin said, "once again, local businesses, clubs, and service organizations have partnered with the Rotary Club to create an amazing day of fun for families."

She added this year's features include two giant inflatables sponsored by Century 21, the Re/Max hot air balloon, animal interactions with Zoo to You and Turtle Guardians, animal-themed crafts from Haliburton Home Hardware, activity tables from Point in Time, Nine Square presented by the Bridge, stand-up paddle boarding by Algonquin Outfitters, frisbee golf by Abbey Gardens, and "so much more."

In addition to all the activities, Devolin said there will be free cotton candy and popcorn. Complimentary ice cream will also be served starting at 5 p.m. while supplies last. Pockets the Clown will be in the park doing her elaborate face paintings. Music in the Park will run from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. starting with local opening act Tom Oliver, followed by Adverse Conditions.

The Rotary Club will be selling its famous beef on a bun and hot dogs during the afternoon and evening events until supplies run out. A highlight of the evening will be the annual Rotary Car Draw at 8 p.m. at the band shelter.

If you still need tickets, you can get them from a Rotarian, at www.haliburtonrotary.ca, or Glecoff's Family Store.

Devolin said, "don't miss out. This promises to be a fabulous day of free fun brought to you by the Haliburton Rotary Club and local community partners."

The schedule:

* free, family-friendly fun in the park 4-7:30 p.m. Kids' activities, face painting, cotton candy and popcorn, Rotary's famous beef on a bun and hot dogs for purchase.
* 4-7 p.m. Zoo to You - exciting animal encounters.
* 5 p.m. Free vanilla ice cream until they run out.
* 6:30 p.m. Music in the Park by Tom Oliver & Adverse Conditions.
* 8 p.m. Rotary car draw.

Getting ready for Minden RotaryFest

Minden Auto Care is showcasing three major draw prizes for this year's Minden RotaryFest Aug. 9. Raffle tickets are being sold for a Matco toolbox, Argo kids ATV, and Snap-on ping pong table. Owners Dennis and Lori Pennie are hosting a Minden Rotary booth every Saturday morning from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to sell raffle and 50/50 tickets for RotaryFest. The other raffle items are two quilts on display at Let's Get Local. Tickets are available at Let's Get Local, Minden Auto Care, and Molly's Market and Bakery. Pictured are Rotarians Betty Mark, Greg Delaney, and Minden Auto Care co-owner, Lori Pennie. *(Lisa Gervais)*

WEEKEND

James Goodliff explains his work to Celia Petconi at a past Tour de Forest. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

ARTS

Art tour offers peak behind curtain

By Lisa Gervais

An annual summer studio show is set to bring cottagers, tourists and locals into the galleries of creatives across Haliburton County.

The *Tour de Forest* Summer Studio Tour, in its 19th year, features 20 artists at 11 studios.

It will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 2-3. An online map displays the locations of all studios, from Eagle Lake in the north, to south of Minden, west towards Carnarvon, and into Highlands East.

"We're really looking forward to seeing people and welcoming them to the event," said co-organizer Charlene McConnell.

McConnell creates glazed pottery decorations and serving ware out of Purple Door Pottery Studio on Eagle Lake Road.

"I enjoy meeting the visitors face-to-face — having conversations about the process," McConnell said.

From the vibrant painted landscapes of James Goodliff to thrown and hand-built pottery by Colleen Ferdinands, the tour is a celebration of the Highland's artistic diversity and skill.

Artist include: Barbara Hart, McConnell, Chuck Lewis, Ferdinands, Doug McDonald, Heather Salzman, Heather Poppe, Goodliff, Jane Selbie, Jyne Greenley, Laurie O'Reilly, Lee Doucett, L & N Beadworks, Marilyn Clayton, Marleigh McConnell, Monique van Well, Paul Diamond, Rita Germann, Terry Sullivan, and Tom Green.

Selbie, an acclaimed local artist, has said supporting artists through tours like this is important to the vibrancy of the community.

"The history of Haliburton County is built on family operations, often extending from one generation to the next. It's what gives small communities their particular character," Selbie said.

"The artist sector is alive in Haliburton County … each artist [is] a small business operator."

VALERIE KUINKA
General & Co-Artistic Director

RICHARD MARGISON
Co-Artistic Director

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MASTERCLASSES

RICHARD MARGISON MASTERCLASSES
Tuesday, July 29th | 7:30-9:00pm
St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton

OPERAS

LET'S MAKE OPERA! *Workshops*
Be the first to hear 3 NEW SHORT CANADIAN OPERAS based on stories from Haliburton County.Supported in full by the ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION.
Saturday, August 9th 7:30-9:00pm
Entrance by DONATION

LOVE & BETRAYAL
1. LA VOIX HUMAINE - Francis Poulenc
A woman's last conversation with her former lover.
Featuring tenor, PATRICIA YATES
(French w/English Surtitles)
2. Scenes exploring themes of love & betrayal. Visit website for casting and program details. Thursday, August 14th 7:30-9:00pm

THE MERRY WIDOW - Franz Lehar
In this hilarious operetta a wealthy widow is pursued by a multitude of suitors interested in her fortune.
August 21st, 23rd, 25th | 7:30-10:00pm
Pre-performance chat @6:30pm
August 24th | 2:00-4:30pm
(Opera in English; suitable for all ages)
All operas presented at Northern Lights Pavilion, Haliburton

CONCERTS

#1: OPERA TO BROADWAY
Thursday, July 31st | 7:30-9:00pm

#2: POP GOES THE OPERA!
Thursday, August 7th | 7:30-9:00pm

#3: HOMECOMING:
HOS ALUMNI IN CONCERT
Monday, August 18th | 7:30-9:00pm

All concerts presented at St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton

PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN EVENTS:

#1: WHY CHOOSE OPERA?
Tuesday, August 5th 7:30-8:45pm
Abbey Gardens, Haliburton

#2: CASUAL SONG SOIRÉE
Tuesday, August 12th 7:30-8:45pm
St. George's Anglican Church, Haliburton

#3: MUSIC ON THE WATER
Saturday, August 16th | 6:00-7:00pm
Fairfield Bay, Mountain Lake, Minden
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WEEKEND

Left: Textile Artist Jen Manuell from Orillia. Right: Paintings by Rod Prouse of Tiny Township. *Photos submitted.*

ARTS

Weaving new life into historic grounds

By Lisa Gervais

Ten artists will be joining April Gates for her annual Schoolhouse Pop-Up Aug. 2-3.

Gates, of Blackbird Pottery, located at the Donald Schoolhouse, said this year's event features a curated selection of artists and makers from the Haliburton Highlands and neighbouring counties, welcoming a spectrum of creative mediums.

This year's guest list includes: ceramic artist Lesley McInally of New Tecumseth; textile artist Jen Manuell of Orillia; natural materials artist Ruthie Cummings of Minden; printmaker, stone carver and jeweler Elise Muller of Baysville; illustrator, painter and crafter, Noelia Marziali, of Haliburton; painter, Rod Prouse, of Tiny Township; sustainable clothing, Willow Ritchie, of North Bay; Wild Muskoka Botanicals, Laura Gilmore of Dwight; collage artist, Jennifer Mykolyshyn, of Haliburton; waxed linen jeweler and henna tattooist, and Leslie Howchin, of Gravenhurst, who will be joining the show Saturday only.

This year marks Blackbird Pottery's 11th anniversary at the Schoolhouse, and 23rd in Haliburton.

"It's fitting to welcome the public to a property where the community has gathered in various ways since 1906. Once the Schoolhouse was decommissioned, it served as a church, then a community centre before being converted to a home in the 90s," Gates said.

"We love this grassroots creative pop-up. It's a unique rural destination for weekend road trippers and for locals too. Makers and patrons together weave new life into the historic grounds. It feels like such a good fit and natural progression as an artist," Gates added.

Attendance is free, rain or shine. In the event of unstable weather, check ahead. Find updates by following Blackbird Pottery on Facebook and Instagram. For full details visit blackbirdpottery.ca.

'Schoolhouse Pop-Up' runs Saturday, Aug. 2 and Sunday, Aug. 3, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 5843 Gelert Rd.

WEEKEND

ARTS

Glena Koehler is looking forward to her upcoming art show and sale. *Submitted.*

Artist's first-ever exhibition at 82

By Lisa Gervais

Karen Koehler was helping her mom, Glena Koehler, document the art she had done over the years. Afterwards, she commented, "I think I've been to an art show."

Glena said, "that's what led to the idea of a retrospective of what I have been doing over the years." She estimates the two went through more than 1,000 works when doing the cataloguing.

She has rented the Stanhope Community Firefighters Hall for five hours Aug. 10 to showcase and sell decades worth of her work.

Glena got her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Concordia University in 1992 but has been making art her whole life.

"I was very interested in art from early childhood. I was captivated by a drawing of a woman in profile, elegantly attired. I drew and drew until I successfully replicated this image. At the age of 11, I submitted pen and ink drawings to a children's page in our local newspaper, which was called *The Flint Journal* and won a few prizes for my drawings."

Born in Flint, Michigan, Glena moved to Canada after meeting a Canadian studying in Flint. The couple settled in Montreal. She was a high school English teacher for a while. Then, after raising her son and daughter, Glena undertook her BFA over a period of eight years. After a stint in Whitby, she and her late husband, Ted, moved to Algonquin Highlands in 2002.

Asked about the genre of art that will be on display, the 82-year-old said drawings, paintings and ceramics.

But, she said, it all starts with strokes on paper.

"Drawing is so fundamental to creating works of art, whether it's flatworks, such as painting, or whether it's works in the rounds to get the feeling of depth and light versus shade."

She added her art is "inspired by looking at things from life…I didn't look at photos. I had to do it from life, including models."

She has no idea how many pieces she will bring to the exhibit. However, she said they would lay on tables as many are not framed.

She is asked what it's like to have a first-ever art show as an octogenarian.

"I just think it's never too late to become expressive and hopefully doing this body of work will be stimulating for your own creative spirit."

The show is between 11:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and is cash only with art priced at $50 to $200. A portion of the proceeds are going to Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre. The hall is at 1095 North Shore Rd.

Dancing in the street

Summer's here and it's time for some dancing in the street.

Dance Happens Here Haliburton (DH^3) is partnering with Pride in the Highlands and the River Cone to host, 'out in the street line dancing.'

On Saturday, Aug. 23, from 2-4 p.m., everyone is welcome to join the fun. Dances will be led by local line dance instructor, Jacqui Bell.

Bell said, "my approach is to teach some simple steps so that everyone feels comfortable joining in. There will be something for everyone." Inclusion is the name of the game for this event. All ages are welcome. It is free and donations are welcome.

As a part of the afternoon, dancers from some of Bell's classes will show their moves. The River Cone will have food and drink available, plus Pride in the Highlands features.

Monica and Ben Scott of the River Cone said, "we're so excited to have this happening at the River Cone. We are all about families and love doing things for the community."

Allan Guinan, co-chair of Pride in the Highlands added, "we're thrilled to be partnering with DH3 to host this community dance during our Pride Week festival. We hope everyone will join us as we dance on the street to all kinds of music, including queer artists and choreographers from Orville Peck, Elton John and others."

This event is possible with the support of the Government of Canada and donations to DH^3. DH^3 is part of the Haliburton County Community Co-operative. For more details visit *www.dancehappenshere.com (Lisa Gervais)*

WEEKEND

Park takeover

The 62nd annual Haliburton Art and Craft Festival is in the books, with approximately 4,500 people attending the three-day extravaganza held at Head Lake Park July 25-27. More than 100 Ontario-based artists and makers attended the showcase, making it one of the best-attended offerings yet, said Laurie Jones, curator at Rails End Gallery, which hosts the event.

Top left: Jeff Stevens of Madoc-based Stevens Pottery said this was his fifth time attending the popular event. Top Right: Christa Legate sorts through some of the handmade clothing she was selling at her Ruffle Love tent. Second row left: Cameron Tudor and Laura Conchie made their mark on a community weave, which people contributed to throughout the weekend. Second row right: Brittany Balics' booth, selling handmade leather furniture styled after animals and made by Orillia-based Reiners Originals, was a popular spot. Third row left: Self-professed 'Dirty Leather Guy' Josh Friesen, from Stayner, ON, shows off one of his belts. Third row right: Bill Reddick of Reddick Studio Porcelain, discusses his working process with shoppers. Bottom left: Rob Thomas, from Owen Sound's A Twist of Metal, had a message for U.S. president Donald Trump. Bottom right: Carla Drimmie said she's been selling her fine jewellery at "Haliburton's wonderful festival" for at least 10 years. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

WEEKEND

THEATRE

On the trail of wine-making nuns

Accusations, mistaken identities, and romances run wild in the traditional, laugh-out-loud farce, *Drinking Habits,* which Highlands Summer Festival is now showing until Aug. 1 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. The story centres around two nuns at the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing who have been secretly making wine to keep the convent's doors open. However, Paul and Sally, reporters and former fiancées, are hot on their trail. They go undercover as a nun and priest, but their presence, combined with the addition of a new nun, spurs paranoia throughout the convent that spies have been sent from Rome to shut them down. *(Lisa Gervais)*

Left: Front (left to right) Darby Bayly, Victoria Bingham, Janice Kiteley and, back, Mac Ryder, Annie McBrien, Sam Buckland, Russ Davidson and Kirsten Sixt. Right: Bayly and Bingham act out a scene. *Photos by Wendy Evenden, for the Highlands Summer Festival.*

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

JULY 31 - AUG 6 this week

Thursday July 31

Boshkung Brewing Live Music, 6 p.m.to 9 p.m.

Friday Aug 1

Smoke on the Water, Kennisis Lake, Homestead Elite, 5 p.m.-8 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, Emily Burgess Band, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Saturday Aug 2

Boshkung Brewing, Live Music 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Smoke on the Water, Kennisis Lake, Van Hillert, 12 p.m.-3 p.m

Boshkung Smokehouse, Bill Black, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, Chris Smith, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Sunday Aug 3

Boshkung Brewing, Live Music 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Haliburton Brewing, David Bathe & George Porter, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Monday Aug 4

The Dockside Bonnie View Inn, Gina Horswood, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Tuesday Aug 5

Haliburton Brewing Canoe FM Radio Bingo & dinner, 6 pm

Music in the Park, featuring Adverse Conditions, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Aug 6

The Dockside Bonnie View Inn, Woody Woodburn, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Boshkung Brewing, Open 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. Wing Wednesday!

DO YOU THROW EVENTS?

Don't miss out. Hit us up to be advertised here in the weekly entertainment section.

laurie@thehighlander.ca